
Invincible Saint ~ Salaryman, the Path I Walk to Survive in This Other World~

– Book 6 –

Ienith's Internal Affairs and the Crawling Darkness

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Chapter 79

Finding out Ienith's current situation

Within Ienith's Healer's Guild, I requested the oldest healer, Mark-san, to be my substitute as the person-in-charge but he firmly refused and gave me easily understandable reasons.

"Jordo may be young but he has greater unifying ability than me. The healers, including me, recommend Jordo as Luciel-dono's successor."

"... Would you all devote yourself and support him like you have done for me until now?"

"Yes. We have not told Jordo, but to allow the Healer's Guild to take root in this land, the most important factor is to manage it for the long term, regardless of the changing of the Healer's Guild guildmaster."

"I see. Understood. Well then, I wish that you will assist Jordo-san in the future."

"Yes! Luciel-sama."

He left the guildmaster room with a smile.

The next day, I appointed Jordo-san as the Healer's Guild's assistant guildmaster.

"I will entrust the management of the Healer's Guild to you from today onwards. As soon as the new Healer's Guild is completed within the Healer's District, you will become the Healer's Guild guildmaster in that Healer's Guild."

Jordo-san who was standing in front of me showed me a bewildered expression.

"This is a consensus from the healers. In addition, we have obtained approval from the Pope and I believe the notification will arrive soon so I wish you all the best."

"... Why did you choose me?"

"Your youth and unifying ability. To be honest, I followed seniority and asked Mark-san but he neatly turned me down and gave me an explanation. Moreover, for me, it would be easier to converse if it is Jordo-san."

"... Ha~ I understand. I accept."

"Thank you. Well, we are both middle management roles who have no right to decline so let's both work hard."

I extended my right hand as I laughed and Jordo-san also extended his right hand and we exchanged a firm handshake.

For the following 10 days after we returned from the labyrinth, such movement of personnel occurred and there were a couple of matters that I had decided upon.

Firstly, I formed the criminal slaves into Kefin squad, Yarubo squad, and Baderu squad and assigned them to be in charge of escorting.

The escort target to defend was me and the Healer's Guild. I would have 2 squads of escorts and the Healer's Guild would have 1 squad of escort reside within the guild.

To put it simply, other than defending the Healer's Guild once every 3 days, they would be by my side.

Lionel and Cathy would act as my escort and training partner while Naria would, as much as possible, be in charge of the food and chores in the Healing District.

Dolan and Paula are to analyse the items we obtained in the labyrinth and I have requested for them to make the items I want but it seems like they are struggling with that so they are obedient for now.

Hearing a knock on the door, I descended the stairs together with Kefin who came up to call me, discovering Kefin's squad, Baderu's squad, and Lionel and Cathy waiting. Gathering the leaders, we headed for the mansion.

“... Why do I sense eyes of fear and respect?”

What awaited me when I left the Healer's Guild were that kind of stares.

“It seems like after you made Jasuan-dono drink that, they are afraid of you.”

Kefin told me.

“... But he woke up soon after we left right?”

“He was trembling after he heard S-rank-sama's name so it conveyed to the others that something happened.”

“... I have a really bad feeling.”

“If I remember correctly, your new nickname was ...”

“Ah~ Not listening not listening. This conversation is over!”

I slightly covered my ears and quickly walked ahead. The squad leaders gathered and headed for the mansion.

Even though they were laughing at the sight of me, they still firmly acted as my escorts.

The mansion gate guards greeted us as we entered and the entourage of the respective representatives of each tribe welcomed us.

Incidentally, there was the trembling Jasuan-dono with Jias-dono beside him supporting him.

Seeing him, I wonder if I was a little too severe? Although I had that thought, I consider it a legitimate punishment so I disregarded that thought and addressed the representatives of the respective tribes.

“Thank you for coming out to greet us. The Pope have told me to do my best for Ienith so I will accept the role of representative. I am incompetent and an amateur to urban development so without your help I would not be able to achieve anything. Which is why, please cooperate with me to once again make Ienith prosper.”

There was a significant change within my heart these 10 days.

In the beginning, I was reluctant, to begin with, I didn't have a complete grasp of the situation so there was no need for me to butt in.

It should originally be done by Shiela-chan's father and the representative from the 8 races.

Then, Kefin and the others who grew up in the back alleys of the city told me the information they have gathered.

In addition, I realised that I have Lionel, who I believe had authority in a distant country, at my side, so I aimed to rely on him.

The Flame Dragon also told me to trust others and let others depend on me ... Since I would not be fighting with monsters during my term, I was mildly optimistic about my new target, to challenge something fresh.

There would not be much change with just a single year and it could prevent me from doing anything reckless.

After thinking it through, instead of unease, a feeling of excitement was beginning to sprout within me.

Also, within these 10 days, the most eventful incident was the increase of slaves. Gurohara confessed about another infiltrator from the Empire.

That happened when I had the conversation with Lionel and the others about the future.

Jasuan-dono came running to the Healer's Guild asking for help.

Apparently the slave dealer who I purchased Lionel and the others from was the infiltrator.

We proceeded to the slave dealer and safeguarded the slaves.

When I was thinking about that, a voice called out to me.

“Luciel-dono, I'll be in your care.”

『We'll be in your care.』

Because the representatives bowed down, I approached each of them and after exchanging handshakes, it came to a conclusion.

“I am sorry but because I do not know much about this city, please instruct me about everything.”

I will first make a summary of the overview of the country and the current policies in place they've detailed to me.

There seem to be 10 beastmen races living in Ienith, the capital of the Free City-States of Ienith. Currently, the Bear beastmen and Raccoon beastmen were not present because apparently their numbers are too few so they are not included in the meetings.

It was explained to me that they are still citizens so if they have any requests they can hold a discussion.

The total population of the capital Ienith is roughly 6 thousand.

That number equals the population of the Holy Capital Schull or Meratoni so it didn't feel like much for the sole city of the country.

When I asked about it, I was told that the more territorial individuals created their own villages.

I felt that managing that would be tricky as I received the explanation regarding the land next.

From the description, the border was larger than I had expected. I could only judge by viewing the map, but the land boasts an area twice the size of the Saint Schull Allied Nations.

However, they also supplemented that a large half of it is unsuitable living environment as it is made up of cliffs, mountains, and undeveloped forests.

Looking at the map, located to the East is the Principality of Blange, to the Northeast is the Labyrinth Nation Grandol, and to the North is the Saint Schull Allied Nations.

I was told that the country earns foreign currency through trade with these 3 countries.

I was also told that located to the West is a mountain range and beyond that spreads the open sea.

However, because nobody has been there to confirm that, it was a blank zone.

The source of income for the residents living in Ienith seems to overwhelmingly be from trading with the Adventurer's Guild.

Apparently, because they can enter undeveloped areas by all means to hunt rare monsters, adventurers find it easy to have their base of activity here, second only to Grandol.

Apart from that, the residents either work in the field, become an adventurer themselves or register in guilds if they have the talent.

As for the food situation, there are plenty of wheat grown for individual consumption in the fields, but apart from that, spices such as herbs and red peppers are commonly grown in order to earn foreign currency. Thanks to the climate, they grow well and at a reasonable amount so a stable supply of export is achieved.

I believe it has nothing to do with the fact that beastmen live in Ienith, but I heard that there isn't a culture of eating vegetables and they are mostly oriented towards and prefer to eat monster meat.

Following that, the current policies in place were terrible.

The majority are focused towards attracting adventurers and cultivation methods for spices, and there was completely no discussion about improving the lives of the residents.

Writing down the important points, problematic points and points of interest on a piece of parchment, I sighed at the thought of the various hardships I will have to go through for the coming year.

Chapter 80

Ienith's prudent management

Shockingly, without collecting taxes from the residents, the majority of the country's financial resources came from the export of the specialty spices produced here. Because of such a large bias towards the spice export, I couldn't help but consider what would happen if the weather was unfavourable as I listened to the explanations.

"I understand that the country's revenue stems from the periodic transfer of payments from the various guilds and the sale of the spices produced by the country. What about the expenditures?"

If the expenditures are high, I'll begin by shaving off what I can shave off.

"The expenditures only involves personnel expenses. Also, it's only once every couple of years, but there would be some expenditure required to develop magic tools that we beastmen can use as well."

Shiela-chan's father Ouga-dono answered me after thinking but at that moment I remembered something with an uncomfortable feeling.

"... Do you have a balance of payments report?"

If the expenditures are only labour cost and magic tools ... then if the magic tools are not expensive, why would they face losses? I had my doubts.

"Yes. Please wait a minute."

The person who said that and left his seat was the fox beastman Folence-dono.

The returning Folence-dono handed me a thick ledger but a completely unexpected situation was written within it.

"... Erm? Looking at this ledger, I believe there isn't any need for me to be involved in managing the country?"

There weren't any large expenses within the ledger. It was a balance of payments report that showed steady progress over the years.

The yearly final net income was increasing and judging by the significant surplus, they had so much surplus that it was excessive.

“That's not true. Certainly, there are funds in the national treasury, but it might not remain like that forever. Furthermore, we wish to allow the future generations to challenge the various possibilities of the dreams they may hold. For example, a first beastman healer.”

Ouga-dono said and laughed.

In retrospect, I was approached to become Ienith's representative, but only as a revered existence of strength and kindness. I realised that I was not given any instructions or funds, and neither was I told to reform the country.

Looking at the country and the beastmen, I wondered if I unconsciously looked down upon them as my face burned red from embarrassment.

They were already running the country splendidly.

Furthermore, they were not living luxuriantly nor satisfied with the current situation, but instead repeatedly stacked up various discussions to allow their future generations to embrace their hopes and dreams.

Taking that into consideration, Gurohara, who was sent by the Empire, had a valid strategy, which was to entice Shaza and the corrupted beastmen to decay Ienith's internal structure.

While thinking about the dreadfulness of the Elimasia Empire ... I was given a summary regarding the tasks that utilizes their unique features, the children's education grounds, and the effective use of the wide land.

“The fact that you all have been steadily managing Ienith can be understood with just a glance. I don't have many ideas that I can come up with, but, once again, I will do my best to rebuild Ienith.”

It was for self-satisfaction, but I began by lowering my head.

They were panicking a little but they felt something after I raised my head and they didn't comment on anything.

“This might be an amateurish thought, but there are a couple of heads present to bounce the idea around so I'll say it out. Firstly, I wish to build schools. Schools for children to study and schools for adults to study.”

The surrounding air solidified.

“... For adults as well?”

A dog beastman, Sebec-dono, raised his hand.

“Yeah. If you all are literate and are capable of calculations then it would be unnecessary, but the truth is there are some who discover the joy of learning after becoming adults. It would be tough to perform the same task at the same location everyday and people may suffer from the lack of communication.”

“However, does that mean they would not be able to work?”

This time, the cat beastman, Castel-dono, raised his hand and spoke.

“Yes. That is certainly true. Which is why I plan to separate the classes to day and night classes.”

“But I believe there are certain families that consider children as part of their labour force?”

The wolf beastman, Olga-dono, spoke out.

“Yes. In consideration of that, we should purchase the country's debt slaves. Once they complete the corresponding labour period that pays for their debt, they will be released and if they work seriously, they might even open a new path for themselves. Of course, I only plan to work them humanely.”

“Only debt slaves?”

The one who spoke this time was the bird beastman, Souther-dono.

“Please leave the law-breaking slaves to me. However, it would definitely be difficult to work with war slaves or criminal slaves so I do not plan to purchase them for the country.”

“Who will be in charge of them?”

The rabbit beastman, Ririaldo-dono’s ears were moving round and round as he asked.

“We can leave that to the retired adventurers. I wish to leave the selection up to the Adventurer’s Guild.”

“What are your plans for the adult and children tuition fees?”

Forens-dono’s sharp eyes shined.

“I plan to collect tuition fee from the adults but not from the children. Naturally, those with bad behaviour and cannot be calmed down will be expelled from school. Including those who bully half-borns. I thought of deciding on the tuition cost during this discussion.”

After I said that, the various beastman representatives in front of me crossed their hands and began thinking. At that moment, Guruga-dono’s voice rang out.

“What do you plan to teach?”

“I mentioned it earlier, it will be literacy and calculations. I plan to start with those first. I believe those can be learnt without spending much time.”

“... If, that succeeds, then what do you plan to do?”

I laughed and answered Ririaldo-dono’s question.

“In addition to martial arts training and magic studies for the children, it might be good to call members of the various guilds to come give lectures. If that happens, the children’s choice of professions will widen in the future. However, once they discover the world, they might find farm work dull so in the distant future we might need to raise the wages ...”

“... I see. So the school will be the place for children’s future and a place for adults to interact.”

Olga-dono’s spoke out once again but he had a somewhat difficult expression.

“ ... ”

『 ... 』

“ ... ”

『... Are there any ideas to attract adventurers?』

“ ... There is also the option to create a system to mediate the adventurers who cannot continue staying active in this wide expanse of land due to age, injury, wedding or birth to begin a second life of work here.”

“ ... You mean for the non-active duty adventurers?”

Well, I guess that's how everyone would normally think. However, it is usually impossible to continue fighting in the battlefield for life. Adventurers usually wish to retire somewhere where they are not bound to anybody. Even I ... ha~.

“We can gather adventurers to advance into the southern undeveloped land by lending them houses for free in exchange for 5-10% of their income. Even if they are retired, as long as they can earn money, people will gather.”

“ ... How should we in Ienith go about doing that?”

Aren't we currently discussing that? I thought as I decided to tell everyone my opinion.

“If the healing district that we discussed before is established, I believe adventurers will gather themselves. It is a dangerous job so they would definitely choose a place that is safe.”

Everyone raised a cheer of joy to mention of the healing district. Well, there is peace of mind from the healing magic that can heal most injuries and from the useful medicine of the Herbalist Guild.

Jordo-san is handling the negotiation with that side as well ...

The dragonewt beastman Jack-san quietly raised his hand and directed a question to me.

“Are you considering new industries?”

“I have not given it much thought. However, it may be possible that the obstructing trees and cut down lumber from the cultivation of the undeveloped land produces a new industry. If we level the ground after logging and replant the forest, it might become an industry that can lead us into the future.”

“ ... Development huh.”

They most likely have had bitter experiences.

“I accept any suggestion! I have no intention of implementing these words tyrannically. I may not be able to achieve anything in a year, but I plan to steadily churn out ideas.”

I paused for a moment maintaining my smile. Everybody examined their surroundings and once again began discussing.

“You have all managed this country so splendidly so let us further discuss these ideas. Let’s do some urban planning, such that the residents can live more comfortably with infrastructure upgrades and make it such that the more territorial individuals would want to live here or travel here for leisure.”

After I said that, they gradually begin to smile and point out the issues with the previous suggestions. After surveying Ienith the next day, the talks were progressing.

A smile naturally spilled onto my face as it has been a long time since I used my knowledge from my consultation work. I wish to solve as many problems as possible during my term to create a fine country.

Chapter 81

Reincarnation predecessors and what's possible in Ienith

The next morning, we did some rounds around the city of Ienith but some issues surfaced.

“ ... It is difficult with this number of people.”

With us, the various tribal representatives, their aides and the escorts, our numbers could easily form an army company.

“Today, Olga-dono will guide us to the places where the wolf beastmen gather. Tomorrow, Forens-dono, please show us visit the places where the fox beastmen gather in order. Also, please think of a method for the bear tribe and racoon tribe to come to good terms.”

I told them that. Going visiting with such numbers would clearly bring about an adverse effect and I directed Kefin squad to the influential members in the slums where many of the half-borns live in Ienith.

Even though I heard that I could borrow their power to build the Healing District, would they really so conveniently be thankful for it? Such questions were filling my head.

“ ... It's true that it would be hard to walk with so many people.”

The bird beastman, Souther-dono, spoke out and the other tribes immediately agreed to my suggestion as long as I agree to visit their own tribe's locations.

Stepping out of the mansion where we gathered, we headed for the districts where most of the wolf beastman live in.

“There are many single-storied houses huh.”

When I commented on that, Olga-dono replied.

As far as my eyes could see, there weren't any two-storied buildings, it felt like the sky was nearer.

“Yeah. Including us, the majority of the beastmen typically spend time with their families. Which is why it is mainstream for a great deal inhabitants to live in single-storied houses unless they run a business.”

While laughing, Olga-dono stroked Shiela-chan who was clinging to him.

“I see. Although, we didn’t pass by many people, have they all gone for work?”

After leaving the leader mansion, we arrived at the wolf beastman district in 30 minutes but the number of people outside was extremely small.

“Yes. Generally for the wolf beastmen, most of the males would become guards and patrol around the fields while the females spend their time in the fields while taking care of the children.”

“I see. Does each of the tribes serve different roles?”

“Yes. Our country has the same weather all year round, so the work is split into field work, plowing, mowing, harvesting, processing and lookout against monsters.”

... In my previous world, I heard that mowing the grass was the toughest job for farmers but they can’t complain because monsters might come out if they don’t do it.

“By the way, are there any food that all tribes can’t eat in common?”

“ ... Oh yeah. There were rumours which spread for a period of time that said that the whole body would itch if vegetables in the leek family were consumed but that is not true.”

That’s right. In this world, even if the dog beastmen and wolf beastmen ate onion or leek, they would be totally fine.

I heard of this from Grulga-san but I asked to confirm just in case.

Judging by the Garba-san and Grulga-san brothers, I have a feeling that an irreversible accident would happen someday.

But thankfully it seemed like it was true this time around.

“Well, there are tribes that consume that raw, but I would never be able to like it to that extent.”

He looked away as he replied. Then what about his favourite food? I wondered but it did not differ from the favourite food of the canines in my previous world.

“ ... So your favourite food would be cheese after all?”

“Yeah. Exactly. That characteristic smell is irresistible.”

While he smiled, I was taught that cheese which had just begun to slightly ferment was the favourite due to the strong smell.

But I inadvertently laughed when Olga-san slightly trembled and commented that Object X is different.

He said that their potable water was pumped up from wells so I imagined the fantasy-like wells but they were respectable hand-pump wells instead.

“ ... Who devised this system?”

“I heard it was all devised by Philosopher-sama. To make sure this region would not be bothered by the lack of water, he searched for the water veins underground and had the dwarves make this equipment. But apparently it is commonplace in the other cities and villages to use magic tools.”

“ ... Is that so.”

No way, even the Philosopher was a reincarnated individual ... that's not funny. Subsequently, it also proves that the Philosopher also spread the method to make the previously mentioned cheese and curry.

After that, I barely listened to Olga-dono's words as I was finally convinced when it was close to noon that the individuals that either reincarnated or transferred here during an earlier era tried their best to live.

I plan to do the same so I decided to make full use of my knowledge.

The lunch for today was from a shop that provided extremely tasty curry and freshly baked naan.

“ ... Many of the wolf beastmen are great at cooking but why is that?”

“These are also words left behind by the Philosopher, but he said that we have the way of thinking of cooks due to our better and more sensitive noses compared to humans. Especially the wolf beastmen where there are many devoted types so maybe a lot of them ventured down the path of cooking.”

Philosophers other than Sir Rainstar also taught the method of making soap and apparently there was also talks about creating a hot spring town.

It was great that they taught the method to make soap.

Without that, it can be said that there might not even be the current Ienith. It was the cornerstone of development.

Next, about the hot spring plan, apparently they found the source. However, the smell of sulfur was too overwhelming and it was found that the smell caused monsters to increase their activity so the plan was abandoned.

There were also land reformatations, they sent out instructions to mix the field and soil with leaf mulch and to plant lime but it failed and they bought food from other countries for the residents at their own expense.

Now, after spending long years the optimal percentage to mix and plant has been found and is now a state-owned information.

“ ... So Sir Rainstar wasn't a perfect superman after all.”

I was slightly relieved and muttered.

He felt like a perfect superman when I read the books but knowing that he had quite the human aspect to him made me feel relieved.

“Have you been troubled with something since awhile ago?”

“I had some things to think about. I'm surprised that Sir Rainstar had an episode of failure.”

Olga-dono was worried and asked because I was silent but laughed after my reply.

Assuming that there are many reincarnated persons living here, I decided to change my focus from developing the city to making the city easier to live in.

The next day, Forens-dono from the fox beastmen which presides over trade guided me to the places where the fox beastmen live.

“In this way, we focus on trading with the adventurers and conduct transactions with the Merchant's Guild to attract merchants.”

The reason why the Merchant's Guild was placed in the city seems to be because it is required to attract merchants over. This way, there is no burden on Ienith.

During export of the spices, adding in the intermediary margin for the Merchant's Guild, the merchants purchase the spices.

Conversely, although merchants also transport goods over, only registered state-owned merchant houses can wholesale those goods to the various shops.

Because of that, there is no price competition between the merchants in this city.

It's a city that lacks in excitement for the merchants.

"A considerable number of merchants criticized the system when the operations first began. It was like telling the merchants that they cannot polish their skills ... Well, even so, almost all of the goods will be purchased in this system so apparently many of the merchants who met failure before were saved by it. Now there is a rumour going around that if you want to consistently make a living then Ienith is the place to be."

Forens-dono proudly smiled.

Asking in detail, apparently the selling prices for whatever good and where to sell them can be found at the Merchant's Guild. It is a system possible precisely because it belongs to the country.

"5w2h, no now it is 6w2h." (*TL: 5w2h = what, where, who, why, when, how, how much; 6w2h just adds whom.*)

"What are you saying?"

"No, I was just remembering the old times. Oh right, then does the slave dealers work in a similar fashion?"

I remembered my past in my previous life where I was ridiculed for only knowing about 5w1h but there wasn't a need to talk about it so I changed the topic.

"... No, the slave dealers are different. Because we cannot decide on the prices of the slaves."

"... The slave dealers do not need to work through the Merchant's Guild?"

"As long as they register with the country and the Merchant's Guild and received approval, they can open a slave dealership as a slave dealer. 20% of the net income must be paid to the country and 10% to the Merchant's Guild. Of course, the slaves who enter the country are inspected so there are no law-breaking slaves in Ienith."

"I see."

“Other than that, we also purchase the meat of the monsters defeated by the Adventurer’s Guild for a certain amount of money.”

... Actually, I heard that there was going to be a slave auction so was that supposed to be illegal? I thought and asked but apparently it was legal.

Incidentally, apart from those who were pressured by Shaza to refuse our purchase of goods when we first arrived, all the individuals involved have either been converted into slaves or have their assets confiscated and have to restart from the bottom.

As the population increases, this system would begin to reach its limit. While thinking about that, I listened intently to Forens-san’s words.

From the next day onward, I was informed of their special features by each of the tribes and on the 9th day, I finally met the racoon beastmen.

“Luciel-sama, this is the racoon beastman Warabisu-dono.”

Olga-dono introduced me to a racoon ornament. No, but it was moving so it was indeed a beastman.

“Nice to meet you, I’m Luciel. For a year, I will take up the role of the temporary representative for Ienith.”

“I’ll ... be in your care pu~. I am Warabisu, the tentative representative for the racoon beastmen pu~.”

He spoke in a slow manner which makes one feel exhausted but these people are actually more attentive.

“... Please let me know if you have anything troubling you.”

“Understood pu~. Come closer and I’ll give you this pu~.”

After saying that, he took out a necklace made of gold.

“It looks well crafted. It could be mistaken for the real thing.”

Olga-dono glared at me when I said that.

“So Olga told you pu~.”

However, that wasn’t the reason why I found out.

“No, it wasn’t Olga-san. I was taught that the present given by racoon beastmen during the first meeting would be a fake item.”

“ ... Who is that person pu~.”

“A wolf beastman called Garba-san, but you would not know him even if I say his name right?”

However, the moment Garba-san's name was mentioned, Warabisu-dono's face immediately turned blue.

“ ... I'm sorry pu~. Please forgive me for my rudeness pu~. Which is why please do not tell this to Garba-sama pu~.”

The previously slow speech completely changed ... what happened Garba-san?

“I understand. Then if you know Garba-san you would so know Grulga-san ... eh?”

Warabisu-dono had fainted before I was aware.

“ ... I had no idea you were acquaintances with those 2.”

Olga-dono smiled nostalgically.

“Yeah. In the town of Meratoni in the Saint Schull Allied Nations, they were working as staff of the Adventurer's Guild. Grulga-san was the one who made me drink Object X and Garba-san was the one who taught me dismantling and the way to remove my presence ... I'm very indebted to them.”

“ ... So Grulga-san have not given up on his pursuit?”

“Of what?”

“The pursuit of secretly using *that* as seasoning.”

“ ... Don't tell me.”

“Yeah. Warabisu-dono is the same age with Grulga-dono so he was forced to eat those food cooked with *that*.”

So he had his inquisitive mind since long ago ... If that's the case then why was he frightened by Garba-san then?

“I can understand his reaction from remembering about Grulga-san and Object X, but what about Garba-san?”

“Garba-dono was said to be the child prodigy of Ienith as he grew up and was really popular. However, his preaching could hollow out a person's heart regardless of age and sex so it was an implicit rule to never anger Garba-dono.”

The slightly sweating and smiling Olga-san must have also angered him before.

That was the feeling I got.

“Erm, what should we do with Warabisu-dono?”

“If you bring *that* close he would wake up.”

He plugged his nose and laughed.

“Warabisu-san, if you don’t wake up I’ll have you drink Object X.”

“Good morning pu~.”

He woke up in the blink of an eye.

“It’s alright. If you prank me I’ll just have you drink Object X together with me.”

When I said that and grinned, he desperately began talking about the value of existence of the racoon beastmen.

Their hands were dextrous so woodworking, sewing, crafting, and manufacturing were their forte and they were the only beastmen who can use magic.

“The racoon beastmen only excel in such business so even the legendary family was born after the racoon beastmen’s guidance pu~. I was charged with the Toretto legendary family pu~.”

“Eh? Really? I was also an acquaintance of Toretto-san. This robe was also made by him. I’ll let Toretto-san know that I met Warabisu-san the next time we meet.”

“You, you are acquainted?”

“Yeah. He’s a great man who also gave me magic tools. Well, although his personality is slightly too strong.”

He said that he would cooperate if anything comes up later pu~ and left.

“Seems like a tribe that is competent apart from exaggerating their words and their pranks.”

“Yeah. That is true.”

While having such silly talks, the points to be improved for the internal affairs was gradually being constructed in my mind.

Chapter 82

Luciel's scheme

I stiffened when I looked at the bear beastman, Brian-dono, in front of me.

“Nice to meet you, I am the bear beastman Brian. I may look like this but I still have strength.”

With a bitter voice he flexed his bicep and laughed as he introduced himself.

My heart was screaming to me that his figure was way too cute.

(Aren't you a teddy bear~!)

There are bear monsters in this world.

Red Grizzly, Blood Grizzly, Hell Grizzly and the likes had appearances that are exactly like bears.

Grulga-san is a wolf beastman but because of his physique he was called the cooking bear.

And now actually meeting the bear beastmen for the first time, they were fluffy people about 70cm in height.

“... Nice to meet you, I'm Luciel. It's only for a year, but I will be the representative for Ienith. I will do my best to assist if you have any troubles.”

While exchanging a handshake, I tried asking about his appearance.

“... It is the first time I've met bear beastmen but do all of you have such physiques?”

“Yeah. However, this is a temporary form.”

Upon saying that, Brian-dono was enveloped in light and transformed into a huge bear.

“This is my original form.”

I was convinced looking at his appearance ... it was then that the guide today, the bird beastman Souther-dono, laughed as he informed me.

“Brian-dono, you don’t need to lie to this person.”

“Lie?”

When I asked that, Brian-dono returned to his original cute form and spoke.

“Actually, this form is my true form. In the past, due to our cuteness, many of the rabbit beastmen and us were forcibly kidnapped to become slaves. Which is why, as countermeasures, we have a rule to activate our magical power when people from outside countries are present.”

He informed me.

Certainly, just looking at their appearance, their calming presence and cute movements would most likely cause them to be treated as pet animals.

I could easily imagine it.

“That’s tough. So do you have anything troubling you?”

“ ... Is it possible to import honey? I understand it is a luxury good but we want to have that.”

With those cute eyes looking at me, even if I took into consideration that Brian-dono is a man, I could only think that it can’t be helped.

“ ... I’ll take it into consideration. So what does the bear beastmen usually do?”

“We cultivate medicinal herbs and work together with the dragonewt tribe to expand the city.”

So their strength and dexterity are high? I thought about that as we finished our meeting.

That night, under Kefin’s guidance, I wanted to meet face-to-face with the slum’s boss.

“So the reason why S-rank healer-sama came here is to ask if residents of the slums are really content with only getting work? You came to ask about that?”

“Yeah. I believe it would be fine until the Healing District is completed but I cannot guarantee your livelihood after that. There are a lot of people living here as well so is there any methods available?”

The human and fox beastman half-born, Dollarstar, stared at me before shaking his head and saying.

“Listen S-rank healer-sama, there is no equality in this world. Do you, the person who converted my subordinates Kefin and the others into slaves, understand? Do you understand my feelings when I see my subordinates act more lively as slaves under you?”

It was easy to understand after thinking for a bit.

There shouldn't be that many shadowy organizations in Ienith.

I looked at Kefin and spoke.

“I honestly don't understand. However, if you think of them as family then I guess you would hate me enough to want to kill me.”

“And I'm doing work for someone like you. Now you talk about what's ahead, are you here to pick a fight with us who do our best to survive day to day!”

Anger shown through Dollarstar's eyes and I could interpret that there are various other conflicts.

I slowly shook my head and slightly mixed some changes to my words.

“I was refused when I offered to release them from their slave position. He, they want to create a city and school that even half-borns would not avoid. What do you think about that?”

“ ... ”

He stared at Kefin's face dumbfounded.

“Even if the Healing District is completed, the people in Ienith would definitely not change their impression of the residents of the slums.”

“ ... If you say anymore worthless crap I’ll kill you even if you die.”

... So scary. A grudge shrouded over those eyes.

“It is a proposal from me, but do you want to start a new business with me? I will provide the capital.”

“New business?”

“Yes. As I said earlier, I will provide the funds. However I believe it is a job with high risks.”

“ ... What do you intend to have us do?”

“I want you to ” *(TL: He didn’t pause, the author hid it *suspense~* but easily deduced >_<“)*

“ ... Seriously?”

“Yes. Even that Sir Rainstar failed and it is useless but it is worth trying. If it succeeds within the year of my term, I will work to have it formally accepted as a state-owned business.”

Even if it is useless to try, I believe it is good as long as it succeeds someday.

“ ... Why? Why do you go to such extents?”

“I believe that even if you do not have the choice of where to be born in, everyone have the right to be happy. If half-borns are treated with contempt then I only plan to create an environment where they are called hybrid beastmen.”

As I smiled and said those words, I snorted at my own smugness in my heart.

I could not bring myself to say that I could not say those words when my half-born senpais were struggling and that if I could save them just slightly then I believe it would definitely help myself.

“ ... Please.”

Dollarstar-san lowered his head and decided to trust me and knead the plan together with me for the new business.

The next day, during the meeting with the leaders, the discussion for the schools to be built after the Healing District was completed and for the first shot at attracting the adventurers, the adventurers house, was conducted.

“We will construct schools within the Healing District and adventurers houses for middle to high rank adventurers in Ienith. So the adventurers will gather and spread into the forest and enter the undeveloped land.”

“Even though it is good for the Healing District, we do not have sufficient materials to build the schools.”

“Moreover, we cannot move the people currently working on the present projects.”

“We do not plan to use the money from the national treasury to direct the movement into the undeveloped land.”

Just like that, there were many negative opinions but no matter the world, there would always be negative voices whenever the already established system is renewed or reconstructed.

On a public front they look like they are taking Ienith into consideration but I believe their real intention is to keep the current system.

“Yes. Which is why I intend to set off towards the undeveloped forest and retrieve wood. I understood that we do not have the manpower when you all showed me the city.

“... So where would the school be built?”

“I intend to build it where the slums currently is. Ah, the same for the residences for the adventurers. I have currently asked the residents from the slums to do some high risk work so the slums will definitely be reborn.”

When I said that, many of the people's eyes changed. And then their opinions also began to change.

“If you can say it so confidently then I am in favour of the plan.”

“Yes. The money will be spent for the Healing District and other than labour cost, if you say that there would not be any material cost then there's no problem.”

“So is it agreeable that I am responsible for the slums?”

There weren't any objections.

Now, if I create work possible for the retired adventurers, then I believe a new wind will blow upon Ienith.

I pray that it will be a good thing for the people who live in Ienith.

Chapter 83

To the undeveloped forest

The next morning, I led Lionel's squad, Kefin's squad, and Yarubo's squad and left Ienith, departing for the forest within the undeveloped land.

"It seems like you've accumulated a bit of stress lately?"

"... Yeah. However, there are times when I have to do what I must."

"But you are working too hard nya."

"You don't have any experience managing such domestic affairs right?"

"Yeah, none at all. But thanks to my perseverance, I got their assurance that they will remodel the slums so I believe this stress is a small price to pay?"

Lionel and Cathy were, "Burururu" and Fornoir, were concerned about me.

These past 10 days has been tough for various reasons.

Between getting to know about each beastmen's specialty and how to go about planning the new business, I felt like I was in an actual straitjacket, in a situation where I could not do anything.

The working population made up 80% of the people while the remaining 20% was made up of children, those who cannot move their body and the elderly.

Thinking that that is a healthy distribution might instead deprive the beastmen of their fighting instinct.

"However, you sent a letter to the Adventurer's Guild right?"

"Yeah. I thought of informing the beastmen who know about this beastmen country about the current situation."

Lionel and Cathy were puzzled but they steadily began preparations.

"Well then, heading toward the forest today, how many trees do you plan to cut down?"

"Eh? Yeah, I'll instruct those girls today how many would be fine to be cut down."

I pointed at the carriage behind with my thumb.

“However, I am still worried if that is a lucky thing or an unlucky thing.”

“... So it was just as Gurohara mentioned, the slaves from the Empire mediated with that slave dealer?”

“Yeah. In the end, we did not capture him and we don’t know if there’s any underlying scheme involving the slaves that he left behind but I have a feeling that the grudge from the Empire was worsened once again.”

“Kukuku. Well, you could use them to construct the facilities like the orphanage so maybe it was a good thing.”

“That’s because Dolan and Paula made the orphanage and Naria purchased trainers for the children. However ... ”

“You can’t blame them for saying they want to return to being slaves nya. There were kids that had lost most of their limbs or children that did not have sufficient to eat nya. Rather than being dumped at a strange foreign place, they would prefer to thank Luciel-sama nya.”

“... I really can’t get used to the -sama suffix after all.”

I became slightly embarrassed and gazed ahead.

The slave dealer I bought Lionel and others from was an assassin from the Empire.

But rather than that, I felt like the slave dealer had the role of screening for wealthy beastmen and individuals with strong desires.

Jasuan-dono headed directly for the slave dealership after hearing the talk. The guys and girls treated as slaves were weak but to be safe, there was a possibility that they received strange orders so I was called over to remove their slave contract using 「Dispel」 .

When I was helping the 14 slaves, after I got their word that they will not talk about me applying recovery magic on all the members present, I healed all the guys and girls.

Currently, in order to become a receptionist or take up other roles in the Healer’s Guild, the guys and girls were receiving an education.

Unfortunately, the young man at that time was no longer there so he might have been purchased by some other person or he was dragged along by the slave dealer to act as his escort.

“However, I was taken aback that they commandeered that slave dealership.”

“Even so, those guys and girls are grateful nya. Of course, including me as well nya.”

“Indeed. A debt must be paid with a debt.”

The warm smile from the 2 of them healed my heart.

The road ended halfway along the journey but the grass was not tall enough to obstruct us as well and soon the forest was spread across our eyes in front of us.

“Well then, can the 3 elves alight?”

Dolan, Paula, and the elves alighted from the carriage together.

Their eyes no longer held the look of grief and despair from when I first saw them but now another problem erupted.

“Dwarf magic tools are the best.”

“I can make better magic tools than you can.”

The half-dwarf Paula and Elf Rician competed with their magic tool skills ... or with their mouths currently.

“A dwarf like me loved by fire and earth is more useful to Luciel-sama.”

“This old decrepit sure can make a ruckus~. An elf loved by the life-carrying wind and all-enriching water is more useful to Luciel-sama.”

“Who’s the old decrepit. Isn’t you who have lived 3 times longer than I have the old decrepit here?”

While boasting about their own elemental spirits, Dolan and Milfeene snorted roughly as they argued about their usefulness.

“G ... guys, give it a break.”

Said the flustered human and elf half, Crecia.

Crecia could view spirits but she apparently can’t speak with them.

“Ha~. Lionel, can you silence those few?”

“Hahaha.”

Lionel only laughed while Cathy who was looking at me until now quickly shifted her sight away.

“Ha~, gather around promptly. Rician and Milfeene, while teaching Crecia about how to converse with the spirits, select the trees that are alright to cut down. Kefin’s squad will assist them and tie this string around those trees.”

『Yes!』

“Dolan and Paula, help with the cutting down of the trees. Lionel, Cathy and I included will protect you two. Yarubo’s squad, protect Fornoir and the horses and let me know if monsters or adventurers approach from outside.”

『Yes!』

They are already completely my personal squad huh~. While thinking about that, I had them move out to perform their respective tasks.

“There’s quite a fair number of trees alright for cutting down huh.”

“Well then, I shall cut them down with this flame-spewing greatsword bestowed to me by Luciel-sama.”

“Don’t burn them.”

Apparently, in this world, the superhumans can cut down trees without getting their blades stuck in the trees.

While I felt impressed at the sight of the tree gradually inclining and falling down, Cathy snapped off the small tree branches from the fallen tree.

Their figure was amazing after all.

After they finish their tasks, I stored it in my magic bag, forming an assembly line.

Paula also manipulated the golem to fell the trees while Dolan had converted the mallet he was proud of into a large axe and became a lumberjack.

The logging went very smoothly so we soon past a hundred.

“Dolan, how much logs do we need to make that and for the plans?”

“... Going by the thickness of these logs, if we have 600 of them combined with the scrap wood from the houses in the slums, we should be able to manage. The Healer’s clinic don’t need any right?”

“Yeah. There’s a reserve of materials there so there’s no problem.”

What I intend to build was 50 units of houses and a school 3 times the size of the Healer’s Guild.

In addition, this time, I’m constructing those without asking for any payment but I’m doing it for a reason.

“Kya~”

Just as I was thinking, I heard a scream.

“... Advance while being vigilant. Lionel, if there are enemies, I give you permission to clad your sword with flames. Let’s go.”

The 5 of us headed towards the direction of the scream and saw that Kefin and the others had collapsed.

“... Where’s the enemy?”

“... I don’t see any nya.”

“I don’t know if it is treants, but I sense a fluctuation in magical power.”

“I see. If that’s the case, stay alert.”

After chanting 「Area High Heal」, I applied 「Recover」 to all members in order and they stood up while shaking or holding their heads.

“So, what happened?”

“We thought that fruits fell from the tree but when we bent down to pick them up ...”

“They were mandrakes. I didn’t have the time to call out to them to stop.”

“... Well, it’s great that you all are fine.”

Since in fairy tales, it would normally not be strange that they die from that.

“Even so, these should be raw materials for medicine right?”

“Yeah. However, I heard that the preparation method had been lost.”

Since it was the material for medicine like elixirs.

“Well then, please do not perform any careless actions ... Do you all feel like something’s shaking?”

“ ... Everyone stay vigilant. We are surrounded by monsters.”

..... So once the victims pass out, monsters would come to kill them.

“Absolutely do not die! As long as you are alive I will definitely heal you.”

I equipped my illusionary cane and shield.

“Rician, Milfeene, and Crecia, use this bow, if you can use it I allow the use of spirit magic.”

『Yes (Understood)!』

“Dolan and Paula, use the golem to stop the momentum of the monsters.”

“”Got it(Yes).””

“Kefin squad, prevent the monsters from approaching Dolan and Paula.”

『Yes!』

“Lionel and Cathy, rampage with your heart’s content.”

“Kakaka. I’m overflowing with fighting spirit from those words.”

“Leave it to me nya.”

The moment I applied 「Area Barrier」 , I saw the enemies.

“ ... There’s a large number but do your best. I’ll consider giving a bonus if we win so absolutely don’t die.”

The mere material procurement journey had taken an unexpected turn of events but we will absolutely not die, I will not let them die, as I readied my illusionary cane.

Chapter 84

Identity of the earth tremor

Almost instantly, a herd of monsters capable of causing the earth to rumble appeared.

We first caught glimpses of wild animals before catching sight of wolves and the fixture of all fantasy settings, the greenish small humanoids, goblins.

“Forest wolves and goblins, orcs and trolls ... there’s quite a number ... but ...”

As soon as I heard Lionel mutter that, the elves caused a diversion with their bows, reducing the speed of the Forest wolves’ approach as Cathy jumped out.

“I’ll take the troll so I leave the goblins and orcs to you.”

“I’ll stop their momentum.”

Lionel held his large shield and advanced while Paula controlled a 3 meter class golem and entered combat.

“Luciel-sama, please concentrate on applying 「Heal」 remotely. I will crush any monster that approach.”

Said Dolan as he readied his large axe and stood in front of me.

The lives of the goblin and forest wolf monsters scattered every time Cathy passed them by.

With every swing of Lionel’s greatsword, the torso of the monsters larger than him slid off, spurting out blood as the body collapsed, burning in bright red flames.

The golem sent the orcs flying with jumping kneepad attacks while, for some reason, without any fans present, touched its left elbow and held its left arm high, signalling with its index and pinkie finger as it ran around excitedly defeating monsters with a lariat, before holding both feet of its opponent and switching to a giant swing. As it mowed down the trees, the advancing enemy’s speed was further reduced. *(TL: The golem pretty much did all iconic wrestling moves.)*

“I’ll show you now that I’m more useful than dwarves. 【Spirits who dwell in the trees, accept my call, in exchange for my magic, bind the evil monsters.】

“The forest is the domain of the elves. I will not lose to the dwarf girl. 【Spirits of the wind, in exchange for my magic, become a wind blade that cleaves through the evil monsters.】

“Wah~ the 2 of you are amazing. I’ll stick to using arrows.”

When Milfeene chanted her spirit magic, the tree roots and branches wrapped around the legs and torso of the monsters, stopping their movements.

Then, Rician’s wind blades passed through, mincing up the monsters as Crecia’s arrows rapidly struck between the eyebrows and on the monster’s torsos.

Within that chaos, there still were monsters that broke through but Kefin and the others properly dealt with them.

I applied purification magic on the forest to remove the heavy stench of blood as I collected the monsters that were the source of the smell.

As I was collecting the monsters, I pondered about the earth tremor.

(There was without a doubt a great number of monsters but isn’t it weird that the earth tremor persisted for such a long duration with that number? Unless ...)

Thinking up to that point, I inadvertently looked back and noticed that the number of trees clearly increased.

“Dolan, the surrounding number of trees increased. There’s a possibility that they are monsters.”

“What? But I can’t recognize any.”

There’s a chance that everyone did not notice treants mix in with the trees during the battle.

However, thinking that calling out to the others would upturn the precious advantageous situation we had now, I rotated my head a full turn and thought of a solution.

“Dolan, hold on to this.”

“Unuu ... I’m grateful.”

Dolan stopped breathing and hesitated for a brief moment before he obediently received it and immediately installed it.

I took out Object X and the sound of the rumbling earth stopped.

“If it’s a treant, I’ll try slashing at it with this illusionary sword. Dolan, protect me with a shield.”

Tying the barrel of Object X onto my body, I transformed the illusionary cane into an illusionary sword and attacked the tree assuming it was a treant.

Channelling magic into the sword, it glowed palely and a red membrane appeared around the outside.

“... Now that I remember, the Flame Dragon said something about gifting me with something like a blessing.”

I murmured as I sliced at the tree in front of my eyes.

The next instant, 『Gugyaaaaa』, a death throe rang out as pale flames emerged from where I cut and the treant collapsed with a thud.

I felt no resistance from the slash at all.

While thinking about what a cheat-like equipment I was holding on to, I steadily cut down more treants as I stored them into my magic bag.

“What an amazing performance.”

Dolan did not mutter that when he saw me cut down the treants, instead he said that when he saw that the blade could not slice through normal trees when I accidentally slashed them.

Although it so easily sliced through treants, it only left a slight wound on normal trees and could not fell them.

Seeing me apply 「Heal」 on the trees after I accidentally wounded the trees, Dolan closed his eyes and said.

“It is defective as a weapon since it can only destroy monsters but it has unparalleled strength against monsters ... no, if the compatibility is bad as well then ...”

“Dolan come back to reality. We’re still in battle okay.”

Calling out to Dolan who was gradually sucked into the vortex of thought, the elf girls defeated the treants approaching him and confirmed their surroundings before falling to their knees perhaps due to magical power exhaustion.

As usual, Lionel and Cathy trampled on the monsters with a grin on their faces but I felt that the numbers had become considerably less.

“We’ll gather our forces before slowly retreating.”

I told Dolan as I cleansed the route without any monsters and collected the corpses of the monsters.

“It’s about time we retrieve the 2 of them before we return to the outskirts of the forest.”

When I called out to Lionel and Cathy, the 2 of them battled even more wildly and began to forcibly defeat the monsters as if to not let any of the monsters to escape, causing the monsters to gradually fear the 2 of them and flee.

“The 2 of them are definitely a class of their own.”

I muttered as I collected the monsters. After purifying the battleground, I felt the feeling of magical power depletion that I had not felt for a long time and announced that we would be resting outside the forest.

“Luciel-sama, what’s been bothering you from a while ago?”

“I’ve just been thinking about a few things ... Kefin, this forest is undeveloped land right?”

“Yes.”

I asked Milfeene as well but I could not completely collect my thoughts.

“Lionel, did you see any unusual monsters?”

It was the first time I saw goblins and orcs so I could not judge if they were unusual and I asked Lionel.

“... The trolls and mandrakes usually only appear in forests with dense miasma so if you ask me, those are unusual.”

Touching his beard that had grown a little lately, Lionel answered after a slight pause but as expected, goblins and orcs are common.

“We’ve only delved quite shallow into the forest so the monsters might only be a small number but ... doesn’t this mean that it’s a scam to attract adventurers to this land?”

“I believe it depends on what we say to attract them ... but we might not be able to earn that much.”

“I think we should confirm with Ienith’s Adventurer’s Guild once we return.”

“I guess that would be a better choice.”

Later, I found out that apparently Kefin and the others entered the Flame Dragon labyrinth to level up and their boss Dollarstar forbade them from entering the undeveloped forest.

Then, I realised that the elves had strange looks on their faces.

“Is something the matter?”

“I feel like I’m somehow being held back.”

“By the ... spirits?”

“No, but for some reason, I feel slightly sad when I try to leave.”

“Same for me as well. This is a first for me.”

The 3 elves said as they looked at the forest.

We directed our gaze at the forest as well but none of us had similar feelings.

“... There might be something present. However, we should get some rest for now. The magical power of the 3 of you are slightly depleted right?”

Confirming their nods, we began walking and soon exited from the forest.

“After the rest, Kefin squad and Yarubo squad will swap missions. Milfeene and girls please rest until just past noon. Dolan and Paula, help me with the dismantling of the monsters. Lionel and Cathy, I leave the lecturing of Kefin and the others to you.”

Kefin and the others turned pale upon hearing that.

Lionel and Cathy had really fine grins as they headed toward Kefin and the others.

We harvested 102 trees and 9 treants so it could be said to be a sizeable achievement for a duration of 2 hours but ... Dolan dug a hole and retrieved magic stones from the inedible goblins and trolls before tossing them into the hole.

“Looks like there are a lot of magic stones with wind and water attributes and also those that don’t have any attributes.”

“I see. I wanted to do something about the corpses that remained but this is a happy miscalculation.”

“Bonus confirmed.”

Paula looked excitedly at the magic stones and chirped in.

“It does not only belong to you. I am also developing items as well.”

Rician lashed out at Paula so I quickly left the place. Dolan and the 2 of them resumed the dismantling job.

“Isn’t there a bit too many monsters?”

“This is all that is left so there’s no problem.”

“Then I’ll leave it to you.”

“Understood. In exchange, please be generous with the meat.”

“Yeah. Hey~ There’s no better time for it so we’ll be having a barbecue!”

We soaked the meat in hot water once to remove the smell before mixing in spices and grilling them.

The elves could then also eat the meat with that pre-treatment, adding in and grilling the vegetables that we bought, we enjoyed a great barbecue.

After the barbecue meal and rest, my magical power was almost completely recovered.

While preparing to once again enter the forest, I was troubled with letting the 3 elves rest in the carriage or not due to their magical power depletion but it seemed like their magical power also pretty much recovered and they requested to tag along with the search.

“Alright. But don’t push yourselves.”

『Yes!』

Thus, I once again began exploration accompanied by the girls.

This decision resulted in an encounter that would influence Luciel's life but that is a story of the distant future.

Chapter 85

Guidance of the Spirits and Revelations

Returning to the undeveloped forest and resuming our search, we were not caught up in any other events and the procurement of materials proceeded smoothly.

『Zazazudon』 The sound of trees falling echoed into the forest.

“No other monsters appear even with this amount of noise huh. Maybe it was the mandrake’s cry that called the monsters.”

“That might be so.”

Rician reacted to my mutterings and replied.

“How is it? Do you still feel or hear the call that you mentioned before the break?”

“Yeah. However, the range is fairly wide so I can’t pinpoint it.”

I directed my gaze at Milfeene and Crecia but they both shook their heads as well.

“I see. Please continue to select the trees and focus on the voice.”

“Certainly.”

Such conversations went by as our work proceeded. We soon reached the location we had the battle before the break but I began to doubt my eyes due to the sight that was spread across my vision.

“... There wasn’t these many before right?”

“... Maybe fairies or spirits are pulling a prank on us.”

“Now’s not the time to say such carefree things nya. It’s safer to leave this place nya.”

Cathy could not hide her surprise at the mandrakes that number above 10.

Seems like their cry is a little painful on beastmen like Cathy.

“Relax Cathy. Mandrakes are vegetables so they can be stored in the magic bag.”

“Nya? Didn’t you mention that living organisms cannot be placed into the magic bag nya?”

“They are a kind of herb after all. Furthermore, if that doesn’t work, I can deploy Sanctuary Circle which would be able to prevent us from falling into a state of panic so it is going to be fine.”

“Luciel-sama sure is working hard nya.”

Like that, just in case, I had them stand down and ordered them to shoulder me and retreat if I lose consciousness.

“Guess I’ll give it a try.”

I concentrated on placing the mandrake into the magic bag.

“ ... Too easy.”

The collection of the mandrake ended with a breeze while I was still dumbfounded.

“ ... There wasn’t any problem.”

I turned back and told the others but the 3 elves were concentrated on a single point and didn’t reply.

“What’s wrong?”

I followed their line of sight but did not see anything nor feel the presence of anything.

“ It’s a fairy.”

“Leshy ... the forest guide ...” (*TL: Leshy is a forest spirit in Slavic folklore.*)

“It’s the first time I’ve seen one but it sure is large.”

“It’s telling us to follow.”

“ ... 《I have confirmed your strength previously, although I think you are crafty in terms of wisdom ... you have to thank your luck for bringing along people who can see my form.》
》 That’s what it said.”

I looked at Lionel and the others but it indeed could only be seen by the 3 of them.

However, normally it’s unlikely that a fairy would speak to us.

As long as we don’t get caught up in some unique circumstance ... I pondered before telling Rician and the others that we would follow the spirit called Leshy.

“... This might have been the fairy that called out to you all. However, let’s proceed while being vigilant.”

『Yes!』

We advanced while staying vigilant of the backs of the 3 people that can see the fairy.

“This is too fantasy-like.”

Grass and trees twist and bent their shape, creating a road that was originally not there.

Without encountering any monsters, the sounds of birds and insects gradually disappeared, leaving only the sound of trees swaying in the wind.

“It seems like we’ve arrived.”

“Leshy instructed us to wait for a while before his figure disappeared.”

“Nevertheless, what a beautiful spring.”

The 3 of them were guided to a mysterious and beautiful spring.

If I had a camera with me, I believe I would have definitely clicked the shutter countless times.

If monsters don’t appear, it might a good place to live in.

“... I have a dangerous feeling about moving around nya.”

“There have been anecdotes that say that forest fairies love to pull pranks and mislead people such that they can’t leave the forest so it’s better to be wary.”

Cathy and Lionel did not release their vigilance of the surroundings.

I nodded and looked at the beautiful and mysterious spring.

A couple of minutes later, the 3 elves headed toward the spring and began kneeling down.

“What’s the matter?”

There was no reply from them but they seemed to be saying something, like there was a soundproof barrier stretched across the area? I totally could not hear anything.

“Would it have been better if I brought along Dolan and Paula as well?”

I asked Lionel and Cathy if it would have been better to bring along Dolan who can hear the voices of spirits.

“Dolan-dono can hear the voice of the earth spirits but he mentioned that he can’t see them so it wouldn’t be much different from us.”

“There might even be compatibility problems if we brought them, causing it to mislead us nya.”

Their judgement on not bringing the dwarf combi was not mistaken ... I thought so.

Looking at the 3 people in a kneeling position, a voice suddenly echoed in my head.

《Human who received the blessing of dragons. It is still too early for you to come here.

》

“ ... What do you mean?”

The people around me were surprised at my sudden speech but now was not the time to bother about it.

《After some time, you will understand the meaning of it.》

“ ... Am I able to come here again?”

《If you are able to come to this forest again I will guide you.》

“ ... Able to?”

《As long as you have a strong will to overcome fate, you will be able to come here.》

“That is way too abstract. Please answer properly.”

But there was no reply.

The 3 elves were walking towards us.

“Are you alright?”

“ ... Looks like I would not be able to live my life in peace.”

When I said that, Cathy laughed and replied.

“That’s nothing new.”

“ ... Well, that’s true up until now.”

As usual, thinking back to all the chaotic environments I’ve been in, I was convinced that it couldn’t be helped that I was wary of it all being a prank and I brushed off my indecision.

“Luciel-sama, if we push onward from here to the back of the forest, there would apparently be an Elf country.”

“However, Spirit-sama said that it was not the time to do so yet.”

Looking at the forest, I was shocked to find out that there would be an Elf country and I was curious about why it was so caught up in saying that it was not time yet.

“And so why is Crecia crying?”

Since just now Crecia did not say a word and had tears flowing.

“ ... Spirit-sama taught me that I’m a child that was wished to be born. That I could not be born if a human and elf did not truly love each other.”

She said with a delighted expression. I could guess that half borns were discriminated against.

“I see, that’s great.”

“Yes.”

“And so how do we proceed to the returning path?”

“We can return if we proceed that way but ... there is a settlement of the Hacchi race if we proceed this way and Spirit-sama said that he want us to go this way.”

Hacchi race? Reading my expression, Milfeene began explaining.

“It’s a race that lives by gathering nectar from flowers and trees. Spirit-sama also mentioned that the Hacchi race would be beneficial to Luciel-sama as well.” *(TL: It’s basically bee race but they used katakana instead of hiragana.)*

... Spirit-sama ... huh. I am curious how far into the future it can peak but if the Hacchi race = bees then my plan would be able to speed forward. There’s no way I can miss such an opportunity.

“ ... The sun will set soon. If we can return here then we should go back and if it’s impossible, split the party and meet up with Kefin and the others. Are you able to return here again?”

Of course, that question was directed at the 3 elves.

“ ... I’m sorry but it seems impossible.”

Milfeene announced as the representative.

If that’s the case then the problem would be the people returning, at least 1 of the 3 elves must return. And the escort ... there’s no helping it then.

“Cathy, Yarubo squad, Rician and Crecia, please return.”

I retrieved the magic bag from my magic rucksack and passed it to Cathy. *(TL: Basically the first magic bag he had while the magic rucksack is the one he got from the Pope.)*

“Inside are camping tools including tents. Cathy will be the leader in charge of the camp.”

“Muu~ I wanted to go together with you nya~”

“Dividing the 2 with high ability in this party, Lionel, and Cathy, would raise the probability of both side living, so give it up.”

“I understand nya.”

“Everyone please proceed to prepare for camp and if we do not return by noon tomorrow, please return to the city first and come up with a plan.”

『Yes!』

Thus, with only me, Lionel, and Milfeene left, Cathy and the others departed towards the outside of the forest.

“Well then, why exactly must we go to the Hacchi race village?”

“Indeed. What did the spirit tell you?”

Lionel lined up his sword at Milfeene. Even though she was currently under a slave contract, she was only ordered to not cause harm or detriment to me and those related to the church.

Which was why it was possible for her to lie.

It was great that I realised the lie this time by looking at Crecia’s expression but I thought that it was better to think of a solution for a situation where Lionel and Cathy were not around.

“Lionel ... it’s alright to not point your sword. Milfeene, please tell me.”

Milfeene was stiff with a contemplative expression on her face for a while before she started speaking.

“... So our lie was exposed. The truth is, Spirit-sama said that lately the miasma around the Hacchi race settlements have thickened and at this rate, they would be annihilated within a few days. He also said that if it was Luciel-sama, he could save them.”

“That’s why you lied huh ... Ha~ ... there’ll be punishment later. ... Lionel, why are your eyes shining like that?”

“Because it seems like strong foes would appear due to the miasma.”

“Don’t plant a flag. After we purify the miasma and interact with them, we’ll quickly return. Milfeene will lead the way.”

Unlike before, Lionel perceived that there might be a battle with strong monsters so he was selfishly getting carried away.

Thinking that monsters would not appear if I purify the miasma, I agreed to Milfeene’s proposal.

“ ... Thank you Luciel-sama.”

After performing a deep bow, Milfeene gallantly began walking in the lead.

While maintaining vigilance on the surroundings, Lionel and I followed Milfeene’s guidance and advanced into the forest.

Chapter 86

Saving the Hacchi race covered by miasma

“Seems like they are in quite a pinch.”

“Luciel-sama now’s not the time to be in such a carefree mood.”

Milfeene shot an amazingly terrifying look at me and I began applying purification.

“Erm, yes. I’ll start purifying then. Lionel, I’ll leave the lookout to you.”

“Understood.”

We’ve reached the Hacchi tribe’s settlement that was at a distance of about 10 minutes away from the location we parted with Cathy and the others.

... With multiple large beehives hanging down from the trees, it was undoubtedly the Hacchi tribe’s settlement.

However, there were no signs of the Hacchi tribe. A thick layer of miasma to the extent that it was visible to the naked eye covered our surroundings so I applied purification.

The thick purple miasma was gradually purified by the magic spell.

“If we don’t do something about the principle cause of the miasma, there is a high chance that Luciel-sama’s magical power would be depleted.” Lionel shared his concerns about me.

I was aware of that as well but I could not identify the location of the cause of this.

“Milfeene, could you ask the fairies or spirits if they know the source of where this miasma is generated from?”

Milfeene shook her head and answered.

“Fairies and spirits would not approach a place with such strong miasma like this.”

Milfeene answered but I noticed that she was looking pale from the strong miasma so I passed her my robe.

“I see ... I’m a bit late at passing this to you but wear this robe for now.”

“Thank you.”

As Milfeene put on the robe, I gave out orders.

“Lionel, please protect me. Milfeene, call out to the Hacchi tribe and if any of them come out, gather information from them.”

At my command, Lionel answered with a smile while Milfeene replied with a bow.

“As usual right.”

“Understood. If I come across any information I’ll return here immediately.”

I applied purification magic on the Hacchi tribe’s hive.

Initially, I speculated that the miasma came from below and floated upward like vapour but squatting down, I did not see any traces of mist from the miasma.

The remaining choices were from the trees or the air so I walked toward where the miasma was concentrated as I continued purifying ... “Ha!” I suddenly heard Lionel’s voice accompanied by the swing of his greatsword.

“What’s ... wrong? What is this monster?”

“Well then, seems like it’s going to get fun.”

Lionel readied his large shield and greatsword, indicating to me that there would be further battles.

The monster that Lionel cut down earlier was a dog-sized fly that was a half-decomposed undead monster with a greenish appearance.

“The only person having fun here is you, Lionel. Here they come.”

Immediately after I set up an Area Barrier, similar monsters flew at us and I released purification magic at that direction, revealing an extremely large slime that seemed to give birth to various monsters.

“ ... Slimes should be much cuter though? That is clearly a boss-class. Lionel, do your best to defend against it.”

“You don’t have to panic, I’ll defeat them all. The opponents may be undead but it is a fairly worthy battlefield. I, Lionel, am Luciel-sama’s shield.”

So he’s saying he definitely wants to be pushed forward.

It’s good that Cathy and the others weren’t around to tsukkomi him...

“I’ll be targeted when I’m applying purification so I’ll leave them to you.”

Chanting at the created monsters, I released countless purification magic that killed the undead, leaving only their body.

Thanks to the purification magic, the slime that formed many monsters would gradually grow smaller ... wait it doesn't?

“Hey hey, by theory shouldn't that thing become smaller?”

The extremely large slime produced miasma and by sucking in that miasma as if sucking in air, it began performing something like photosynthesis and I felt it was gradually becoming bigger.

The monsters were increasing and Lionel was cutting them down happily but if this battle continued like this, my magical power would be depleted.

“Lionel, I leave all the monsters to you.”

Without listening for Lionel's reply, I channelled magical power into the illusionary cane and began chanting.

【By the holy hand, by the breath of Mother Earth, by my wish use my magical power as sustenance, like wings of light, using a shield of purification, create a sanctuary that sears everything wicked and impure. Sanctuary Circle.】

As soon as the magic circle appeared around the extremely large slime, the monsters all jumped towards me all together but I trust that Lionel would not let enemies approach me.

Even in the off-chance he gets bitten, I told him that I would be able to regenerate any lost flesh so I activated the 「Sanctuary Circle」. The bluish white glow from the slime was joined with a red spiral and the slime was completely defeated.

“High Heal.”

I immediately used chant termination to apply healing magic on Lionel and cast purification magic on the remaining monsters.

Lionel did not let a single monster pass him but in exchange, he had wounds all over his body.

“You seriously overdid it. 「Recover」, 「Dispel」, 「Extra Heal」.

“Kukuku. I'm grateful. I was overflowing with quite a bit of fighting spirit.”

Lionel had a sharp laceration beside one eye and his body was discoloured by the effects of petrification and poison status afflictions.

Thankfully my healing magic could treat his body's wounds and abnormal status.

"I'm thankful that you did not let any monsters by but I would be seriously troubled if Lionel died so absolutely don't die."

"Oo. I've exhausted my retainer luck."

"Ha~ you're definitely not reflecting on your actions."

Lionel had a grin as he continued looking toward the location where the slime was.

"The number of monster corpses is amazing. The miasma ..."

"The miasma have gradually thinned as well."

The origin of the miasma was that slime after all.

"Yeah. And so, that slime ... but I don't think it's a slime?"

"What a coincidence. I feel that way too."

Reluctantly, I retrieved the mountain of undead monsters into my magic bag and applied purification magic at places where the miasma was still thick before getting down to business.

"... 「Purification」 「Dispel」 「Recover」 「High Heal」 ."

Something tumbled in front of my eyes ... a 50cm tall girl(?) with a bee-like appearance collapsed and I cast healing magic on her.

『Queen-sama~』

Then, a group of bees came rushing over.

Within them an elderly(?) bee with a beard holding a spear called out to me.

"Philosopher-sama~ Is Queen-sama, is Queen-sama alright?"

"Erm yes. This individual is alive. Rather, what do you mean by Philosopher-sama?"

"Everyone, our Queen-sama is alright. Let's immediately carry Queen-sama to the hive. Philosopher-sama, please allow us to move Queen-sama first."

"Ye ... yes, go ahead."

“Thank you.”

Small bee-like individuals about 20cm in height carefully carried the queen in their arms and flew toward the direction of the beehive together.

“So Luciel-sama is alright ... I’m sorry.”

Milfeene came over and fell to her knees and bowed after confirming our condition. Right. For some reason, she began with a dogeza.

“And? Why did you suddenly prostrate on the ground?”

“ ... Because I did something unforgivable. I currently do not possess the slave crest.”

There’s no slave crest?

“Spirit-sama removed my slave crest and asked me to save this village.”

Aren’t this world’s dragons and spirits too egocentric?

“ And what’s the compensation?”

Accepting to do this should come with some compensation. But if she had malicious intent then Lionel and Cathy would have noticed.

“This spirit amulet. He wanted me to pass this to Luciel-sama when you have saved the Hacchi tribe.”

So it’s that kind of development? Milfeene passed me the amulet while remaining in her seiza position and once again bowed down after that.

“ ... Milfeene, you can decide if you want to be independent or return to being a slave. If you return to being a slave I would give you punishment so think about it well. And so, you’re listening anyway right, spirit?”

《Forgive that girl. I can only dispel the slave crest of those with strong faith in me.》

He was listening as expected. I looked at the sky and spoke.

“If that’s the case, then you could have spoken to me directly.”

《If I did that then you would have headed over with large numbers. If you did that then your companions would have fallen into confusion and cut each other.》

Even so, he could have said something. I wanted to say that but ... he did have a point. Regardless of how many companions I bring along, even Lionel received such extensive wounds.

“ ... And so, what is this amulet?”

After I asked that, a mechanical voice echoed in my brain.

《Obtained the blessing of the water spirit》

Even here huh. There are blessings to be acquired here as well huh.

“ ... What is the blessing of the water spirit?”

《You will understand when you obtain the water dragon’s blessing.》

I heard an amused voice from somewhere.

“ ... This amulet is?”

《Something that allows you to traverse this forest without getting lost. Don’t lose it.》

“ ... When do I return here?”

《I can’t answer that. However, you will face despair. If you have the strong determination to stand up after that, you will be able to visit this place once again.》

Despair? What does he mean by standing up after that? I was uneasy with the vague words used by the spirit.

“What do you mean by despair! Hey, hey!”

However, no matter how many times I called out the spirit never replied.

“Luciel-sama, whether if we are going to the Hacchi tribe settlement or returning, we need to hurry or the sun will set.”

Lionel warned me.

“ ... Yeah. Milfeene, what do you want.”

“Please allow me to return to being a slave.”

“Ha~ why is everyone so particular with being a slave.”

“A slave for Luciel-sama does not have to live like a typical slave and sometimes it is easier to move with the identity of a slave.”

A smile floated on Lionel's face as he told me.

“She's no longer lying.”

“Yes.”

I breathed a sigh looking at Milfeene rejoice at becoming a slave.

Then, while considering the contents of the negotiation with the Hacchi tribe later, I began walking toward the settlement.

Chapter 87

Negotiations with the Hacchi race and the legend of the Philosopher

Reaching the Hacchi tribe's settlement, unlike when miasma was drifting about, we now saw the Hacchi tribe people coming out.

"I guess such strong miasma was considerably poisonous."

Upon muttering that, a number of the Hacchi tribe flew over and replied with smiles on their faces.

"Philosopher-sama, thank you for saving Queen-sama and the village."

"If Philosopher-sama wasn't around, I can't fathom what would have happened to our village."

"Philosopher-sama is our saviour."

I was told such things but I wondered why they thought I was a philosopher so I asked them for the reason.

"It's good that I was able to rescue you all. By the way, why do you all think that I am a philosopher?"

They replied with a mysterious look on their faces.

"In the legends, Philosopher-sama gallantly appears when miasma spreads through the forest and drives away the miasma by releasing bluish white light."

"When the forest was once again covered in miasma, I was told that the 2nd and 3rd philosopher would appear."

"Releasing bluish white light like in the legends, clearing the miasma, are you not Philosopher-sama?"

... So it's completely the fault of Philosopher-san. What 2nd and 3rd philosopher. Is this some stage performance ...

“ ... Unfortunately, I am a healer in training. This time, I came to negotiate with the Hacchi tribe but without Queen-sama it can't be done right?”

“Eh? If that's the case, I'll bring Haniru-sama over.”

One of the Hacchi tribe individuals flew into a beehive above in the sky.

“Nevertheless, why was Queen-sama caught? And why did you all not flee from the forest?”

“There's no way we can leave Queen-sama behind and run!”

A youth(?) raised his voice and began endlessly talking about how amazing the queen is.

“Please end it there.”

A dignified voice resounded and the queen, the elder from before, and a slightly larger youth appeared.

Immediately, the Hacchi tribe members in front of my eyes smoothly opened a path.

“Philosopher-sama, thank you for saving me and the village.”

The bowing queen had wings clad in magical power different from the other Hacchi tribe members, with the wing emitting a faint light.

“It is an unexpected development but I am glad to be able to save you all.”

“And I heard you wish to negotiate?”

“Yeah. My deduction may be wrong but I believe you all are able to create honey.”

“ ... Yeah. You are right.”

I'll first properly explain to them my desire.

“My plan is to ...”

I talked about my plan. And asked that they somehow cooperate.

“ ... I see. However, even if it is Philosopher-sama who saved the village, I cannot give you an immediate answer.”

“I guess so.”

It was a difficult proposal so I did not expect an instant approval.

“ ... Which is why, please guide my son Haniru and a couple others to Ienith.”

“What do you mean?”

“If we can be convinced that your word is completely trustworthy, I wish to be in your care as well.”

“Thank you.”

A smile naturally spilled from my expression at their unexpected offer to dispatch members to confirm the situation. I thought there was a need to conduct multiple negotiations so this was a really significant step.

“Nevertheless, Philosopher-sama sure thinks of interesting things.”

“Really?”

“Yeah. I imagined that the human race was a lot more arrogant so I was surprised.”

I could easily imagine that something happened between them and humans in the past. I felt that I had to investigate the Hacchi tribe’s history ... it was kind of an intuition.

“And so why did Queen-sama turn into that slime? Or why were you captured by it?”

“ ... About half a month ago during dawn, something was thrown into the forest when a flying dragon flew over. The youths from the village saw that and went to investigate, discovering a broken bottle containing that slime which had begun emitting miasma.”

Half a month ago ... about the time we went to the labyrinth huh ...

“All physical attacks against that slime were completely ineffective and because we have never seen a nucleus of that colour before, I, the only person who can use magic, attacked it with wind attribute magic but the slime suddenly leaped toward me ... I have no recollection of any events after that.”

The Hacchi tribe elder continued the story.

“We tried using fire to attack it and save Queen-sama but the slime used Queen-sama as a shield and we could not attack at all.”

An intelligent slime? Or was it defensive instinct? I looked toward Lionel but he was listening seriously and unusually did not notice my gaze.

“Gradually the slime became larger and that miasma attracted monsters which it began absorbing. Since yesterday, it began giving birth to undead monsters and we could only ask for help from the Spirit-sama of legends.”

Praying to spirits instead of praying to gods huh.

Looks like the faith in spirits in this world is considerably strong as well.

Rather, if the Philosopher is a reincarnated individual as well, the Philosopher's words ... it would be better to read his biography as well.

Ah, I should pay attention to the conversation.

“And so, like in the legends we arrived ... so that was the situation. Nevertheless, it's a good thing that Queen-sama didn't dissolve.”

“It was thanks to this.”

Queen-sama said and showed me an amulet that I saw somewhere before.

“ ... That is?

“The amulet of the water spirit. It is an amulet that is passed down to successive generations of queens.”

The queen caringly stroked the amulet and pasted it on her body.

Looking at the amulet gradually disappear, I realised that I was completely manipulated by the spirit this time.

“ ... I see.”

I couldn't help but reply with a monotonous reply.

Seems like this time, the water spirit wanted to save the kin that was devoted to it.

... However, if that slime was left alone, it would have surely become larger and there would be a high possibility of this forest and Ienith falling into a dangerous crisis ... thinking about it that way, maybe it was good that I was manipulated by the spirit this time.

It was smoothly defeated during its early stages but if it had reached the stage of covering the forest with miasma, my plan of attracting adventurers would have been all for naught.

Moreover, because I saved the Hacchi tribe this time, I had the chance to contact them so I guess it is good fortune.

That's right. There's no use thinking about it negatively for these kind of situations.

I'll consider this as ... the guidance of Great Luck-sensei.

I felt slightly more at ease thinking about it.

“Would you be staying for the day?”

The queen said that but looking up and imagining how I would sleep, I could not muster the courage to stay.

“Even though you offered, my companions are waiting so I will have to reject your offer this time.”

I rejected with a smile.

“I see. Then please take this gift.”

The queen turned around and passed me a barrel that looked like it could fit 30 litres, filled with crystal-like yellow globes.

“Housed in this barrel is honey. If you place this honey globe into a container about the same size as this barrel filled with water, after one night it would become mead so I hope you would enjoy it.”

Seems like there are various methods to make alcohol in this world.

“I will gladly accept it. Would it be alright if I call for Haniru-dono and his retinue at a later date?”

“No, we will be accompanying you.”

“Is that alright?”

“Yes. Since it is a great chance to see the outside world.”

I guess they have already anticipated various patterns after listening to the negotiation. Seems like they have said their farewells as well.

“Understood. I will take care of your son and his retinue. We will regularly return to this forest so I promise to bring them along every time.”

“Thank you.”

Thus, we left the Hacchi tribe's settlement.

“So it was actually so near?”

After walking for less than 10 minutes from the Hacchi tribe's settlement, we exited the forest and saw everyone.

“Preparation for dinner will be complete soon nya.”

Lionel made eye contact and Cathy immediately tried to pull my hand but I stopped her and decided to introduce the Hacchi tribe members and my squad.

“Please think of them as delegations of the Hacchi tribe. They will play a crucial role in my plans so I hope you all firmly protect them as well. Haniru-dono and retinue, these are my slaves but also my subordinates. We will be in your care.”

After that, dinner was already prepared after all so by the time we all had our fill, the evening sun was already sinking across the horizon.

“It will quickly drop into total darkness so everyone proceed with caution.”

『Yes!』

To be safe, I applied 「Area Barrier」 on everyone before we began setting off.

The attached light on the carriage lighted up the road, allowing us to easily spot far away enemies. It was a magic tool that I had Paula make but its usefulness was immediately achieved.

There was the risk of having our position known to enemies but it was constructed so that we would not be caught paralyzed by sudden ambushes.

“Seems like they are only monitoring us from a distance.”

“I see.”

Through the reports, I knew that there were opposition factions and understood that they might prey on us when we were outside the city.

In the reports from Dollarstar, he advised that there were people who were not amused by the fact that I did not act obediently as Ienith’s representative.

“They are of the Centaur (horse beastmen) race while at that side are monsters nya.”

“I pray that there isn’t going to be a raid.”

“Today should be a wait-and-see situation. From tomorrow onward there might be attacks.”

“Everyone, just don’t die instantly.”

Thus while thinking that today they were only confirming the hostile forces and that it might get rough from tomorrow onward, I was glad that we returned safely to Ienith.

Chapter 88

Luciel's underground domestic affairs plan

After arriving at Ienith, we returned to the Healer's Guild.

On the way back, Kefin and the others directed the way to Dollarstar-san's place and we shared our progress status and exchanged information.

"We're back. Did anything out of the ordinary happen?"

Jordo-san shook his head and as I checked their progress, I asked Lionel to stay behind and told the others that they were free to spend their time.

Yarubo squad headed for the underground 4th floor while Dolan, Paula, and Rician headed for the underground 3rd floor.

Cathy, Milfeene and Crecia headed for the canteen.

Me, Lionel and Haniru's group moved to the underground 1st floor.

"This is the basement. I plan to make it similar to how it is here."

The impact was so great that they, the retinue with Haniru-san included, stood there dumbfounded with their mouths agape.

"I was surprised as well when I saw it for the first time. I could not imagine that there would be an empty space underground.

"... Unbelievable. The air here is clean and if the number of trees is increased, I feel it can be comparable to a forest."

The retinue all nodded their heads as well.

"I have given an explanation along the way to this Healer's Guild but this is my dwelling. It is intended such that we would have no trouble accommodating people no matter the number."

"Seriously amazing. However, how do you intend to sell it?"

"I have already received approval for that. However, I have no idea what the other party thinks about it though ..."

I smiled and slowly advanced my plan.

“I intend to invite the bear beastmen who are knowledgeable about plants into this plan but I do not know the Hacchi tribe well enough so I only intend to do so if you have no problem with it.”

The honey-loving bear beastmen would definitely get on board with the plan if I invited them.

However, the Hacchi tribe is indispensable in this plan so it was difficult to draw the line.

“There are no problems. However, wouldn’t it be too confined with this amount of area?”

“Yes. Construction has already begun. I plan to have the depth to be about similar to the underground 3rd floor here and convert the whole slum district into a pseudo-space to plant flower gardens and fruit-bearing trees.”

That was not the only thought in my head.

I’ve examined a botanical illustration book but plants like sugar beet or sugarcane does not exist.

The Elimasia Empire and the Rubruk Kingdom are the only 2 countries that export sugar but all information about the manufacturing method and the ingredient have been completely shut out.

Currently, Ienith was growing spices and medicinal herbs.

I won’t say that it is bad and I hope that they continue.

My intent when I thought of the new business plan was to aid the weak.

Of course, I do not intend to offer this opportunity for free.

That’s right, it must come with a pledge. *(TL: I’m starting to think that what he means by pledges are the written agreements people sign to seal business deals ... not sure yet, but it fits his salaryman background. The kanji can also be translated as written oath.)*

Anybody who talks about it, writes anything regarding it, finds any means to transmit the information, or takes any illegal actions would be forcibly severed from the plan.

Moreover, I specified that the person who reveals it will be forced to drink Object X.

Even in the case that it was threatened out of them, they would also be severed from the plan but they would not be forced to drink Object X.

“So the underground is to be constructed into an orchard and flower garden to allow us to create honey. I see, it looks like it would be interesting, for thoughts about the distribution of profits to only be considered later on.”

I was confident that Haniru-dono was greatly interested.

While chiming in to show I was paying attention, I was thinking that the person who holds the right to make the decision was the queen but, currently the person-in-charge was Haniru-dono so I pitched my closing sales pitch. *(TL: Pretty much a sales pitch to sway buyers on the fence to actually decide to buy, usually by asking a question like “How would you like to pay, credit card or cash?” so that they instinctively think that they want to buy it. Or that is what I got from reading up online.)*

“So if it is up to Haniru-dono, when would you be able to start?”

“Hmm. The beginning would be a testing stage so would it be alright if I plant the few flower seeds that we brought along?”

Haniru-dono had an eager personality, more so that I had imagined.

If this works out well, all that remain would be some minor fine tuning.

“Yes. We have the elves that are familiar with plants and dwarves that are knowledgeable about soil so leave the management to us.”

The truth be told, it was not like I did not have any concerns. This time, I learnt that there are irregular existences like the Spirit as well as the ability to dispel slave contracts.

Even if they agree to work with me here, I feel that I have to enforce a slightly stronger oath.

I plan to assign the elf girls to this city.

Once the field is set I would not need them anymore and the Pope also told me that it's alright to release them from slavery and hire them for the Healer's Guild when I go on a journey.

Well, I intend to leave that decision up to the 3 of them.

“ ... Now that you mentioned it, why are those forest people ... the elves, slaves to Philosopher-sama?”

“A certain slave dealer fled and the Healer’s Guild took them in when they were on the verge of dying. They told me that they would prefer to remain as slaves so they maintained their status. I believe their desire to remain as slaves may be due to the good treatment or because I am their saviour, but I intend to release them whenever they wish for it.”

I looked at Lionel but he lightly smiled as usual.

“I see. Then why did you not allow the elf slaves to fight?”

Haniru-dono asked with a serious look but I did not have a clear answer.

“ ... Hmm~ That’s a difficult question to answer but I decided that they would be in the way during combat. I do not wish to fight alongside those that I do not trust. Lionel here is one that I already trust to the extent of offering to dispel his slave contract. Though, he always refuses it.”

“But I thought it would be harsh on a human to be a slave?”

He made it sound like there exist certain criteria to handle human slaves.

I answered honestly with a smile.

“Basically, I do not understand the way to handle slaves. There was no guide to slavery and I do not comprehend the talks about slaves getting complacent if they are given bed and food.”

“ ... I see.”

“I do not bother to save criminal slaves but I believe that nobody wants to become a slave. If fate brings me to slaves, I prefer to see faces with expressions showing that they are trying their best compared to faces with looks of despair. Although Lionel always say that I am too naive.”

If I set off for a journey at this moment, I believe I would only bring along Lionel and Cathy.

Everything left unattended here should be fine with Jordo-san around and if they refuse then I can always forcefully dispel the slave contract.

Of course, I’ll pay them but what comes next would be entirely up to themselves.

“You really resemble Philosopher-sama in the story.”

Haniru said as he laughed.

After briefly explaining the underground to them, I invited them to the guildmaster's room to discuss the plan's schedule, the seeds of the flowers and fruits to plant and the selection of the fruit trees present in the forest.

“Milfeene, are you aware that you could have been killed by Luciel-sama and Lionel-sama?”

Cathy spoke to Milfeene and Crecia.

“There's no way I'd be killed ... Spirit-sama revealed that it was all for the sake of Luciel-sama.”

She looked at Milfeene with a chilling gaze ... and shifted her gaze to Crecia.

“Hiii, wha, what is it?”

“Why didn't you say that you lied? Rician who is not here is also guilty as well.”

Crecia immediately began speaking from the fear.

“Because we were told that it as for Luciel-sama's sake.”

“By the Spirit?”

“Yes. Moreover, he said that Luciel-sama would be able to easily command the situation.”

“Lionel-sama was hurt to such a serious extent. Like hell it was easy!”

Cathy was angry with herself all the way.

And regretted the fact that it would have been better if she headed to the Hacchi tribe's settlement as well then.

The faith in Spirits is thin within cat beastmen like Cathy.

Cathy carefully observed Crecia but she did not see any signs that she lied.

However, she intuitively knew that Milfeene was still hiding something.

“Milfeene, the current you is not a slave right? Why did you become Luciel-sama’s slave? With you capabilities, you can sufficiently earn a living as an adventurer.”

Milfeene’s expression did not reveal anything under Cathy’s questioning as she answered with a single sentence.

“ ... I cannot say.”

Cathy directed a sharp gaze at Milfeene and further questioned.

“Is that also influenced by the Spirit?”

“ I cannot say.”

Cathy noticed the look of resolve on Milfeene’s face when she raised her head.

Which was why Cathy gave a warning.

“Is it family? Or a revelation from the Spirit? ... So it’s the revelation from the Spirit ... huh. That’s good. If you undertook the actions this time due to your family being held hostage or something, I would have killed you. But there will not be a second time.”

Cathy said before leaving the canteen.

“Was Cathy-san always such a frightening person?”

Receiving the gaze different from the usual friendly and absentminded Cathy, Crecia was trembling but Milfeene was quivering even more.

The content of the revelation to Milfeene from the Water Spirit was to facilitate the chance meeting between Luciel and the girl holding the title of Dragon God Priestess and the blessing of the Spirit King.

Milfeene, who was told by the Spirit that it was unnecessary to speak to others about it, was on the verge of crying but she could only search for the girl who possesses the Spirit King’s Blessing.

Chapter 89

Relationship between honey and the Bear beastmen

The next day, I passed my magic stones to Dolan and Paula and asked them to continue digging the underground 3rd floor.

“I wish to make an entrance from the other side as well but I have not received their pledge so I can’t do that yet. Please clean up the compartments while I discuss with Haniru-dono here.”

“Understood. I’ll continue digging.”

“I’ll compact the walls.”

I’ve forgotten that the 2 of them usually do not speak much. Then, I noticed the 3 elves.

“Crecia, Rician, Milfeene, listen to Haniru-dono’s opinion, discuss about where and what type of seeds to sow and write them down on a piece of parchment for me to see later.”

『Yes.』

This morning, the 3 of them pledged to me.

With that, I can bind them to a certain extent but if it is hopeless then it can’t be helped, I would just not involve myself with them if that happens again so I don’t really mind it.

This time, the pledge established joint responsibility.

If any of them commit something, all 3 of them will be sold as slaves together.

There’s a chance that they would immediately return even if their slave contracts are dispelled and if they lose their memories about meeting us, if spirits are involved then there’s a chance they will be returned to us as well.

Ability-wise, I believe they are necessary personnel for the orchard, honey, and mead distillery.

Last night, while talking about the spirits and the elves' special characteristics with Lionel and Cathy, I decided on how to handle them.

Cathy told me that she confirmed the situation about their slave status with Rician and was told that only people with strong faith in spirits can dispel the slave contract.

“When I firmly had a talk with them, they properly told me nya~”

She said with a smile but her eyes weren't laughing.

It's definitely because Lionel got hurt ... but isn't she over thinking it?

Going by that criteria, Milfeene is an elf of age above 200 so I guess her faith would be considerably strong.

Humans worship the Chief God Kuraiya to use magic and similarly they beseech spirits to use spirit magic so their devotion should be strong to a large extent as well.

They gave priority to the revelation from the spirit that nears godhood which they always had faith in compared to me who only became their master for 10 days.

I guess that can't be helped.

Surely if Cathy was ordered by Lionel as well, a similar situation would occur and I can easily imagine who she would prioritize between me and Lionel.

Well, since the situation changes depending on whether she is convinced or if I sense something, the situations will never be equal ...

Even though I thought I no longer need to think about these things after coming to this world ...

It's a secret that I felt nostalgia toward my life in Meratoni when I was thinking about this.

The next morning, when I told the 3 of them, Crecia looked like she was about to cry, Rician glared at Milfeene and Milfeene apologized with a deep bow.

I told the 3 of them that this was coercion and as of now they can still discard the slave contract but the 3 of them still rejected.

Thus, I now had 3 people with slave crests that would automatically dispel if they conduct any harmful activities against me, my plan or the Healer's Guild.

Once a day, Cathy and Naria would be in-charge of checking their slave crest and I stopped devoting time to this matter.

“Naria, please continue to teach the slaves literacy and general knowledge.”

“Yes.”

Naria asked “How about Luciel-sama joined as well?” but I don't have such time.

“Kefin squad will patrol around the guild's perimeters while Yarubo squad and Baderu squad, I ask that you flush out the opposition without overexerting yourselves.”

『Yes!』

That was a really good answer.

While praying from my heart that they can successfully rehabilitate, I called out to Lionel and Cathy and departed.

“Lionel, Cathy, we'll first go visit the bear beastmen.”

『Yes!』

After calling out to Jordo-san, we left the Healer's Guild.

Although we came to meet with the bear beastmen, there were a number of tiger beastmen present as well.

“Good morning.”

Seeming as if they did not notice me, the tiger beastmen gave a surprised nod and left as if they were running away.

“I wonder what that was about?”

“That's a slightly disturbing sign.”

“Today is Yarubo squad's turn to keep track of them so it's fine nya.”

Lionel showed that he was thinking while beside him Cathy answered with a laugh.

“Did you notice something?”

“When I investigated the centaur tribe slightly, I found that the tiger beastmen are involved nya.”

Since that was investigated within the span of yesterday, Cathy is outrageously talented after all.

“ ... Please report something like that as well.”

Cathy laughed and averted her gaze.

I was somehow healed by that comical action.

“ ... I'll keep that in mind nya.”

“Ha~. Well then, let's ask what the tiger beastmen came here for and begin the negotiations.”

I knocked on the house that the tiger beastmen were in and the door was banged opened with an amazing momentum that was then stopped by Lionel.

“As I ... ugh!?”

There was a bang and this time, the sound of something hard hitting the door was heard, before Lionel slowly opened the door, greeted by the sight of a bear beastman holding onto his head.

“Are you Brian-dono?”

It was hard to distinguish between them.

While taking note of a surprising side of Lionel, I applied 「Heal」 and 「Recover」 .

The recovered Brian-dono woke up and gave an embarrassed look when he noticed us and invited us into the house.

“Were you in the middle of something?”

“ ... Our tribe is small in numbers so we have various things to do.”

Brian-dono smiled weakly.

“I see. If it's alright with you, maybe you can give me your trust and confide in me?”

“ ... I am aware that Luciel-dono is currently the representative for Ienith. However, this is a problem between tribes so please understand.”

Does he not realize that by saying so he had already completely revealed their relations with the tiger beastmen?

“I see. Then I’ll return for today.”

I smiled and said to Brian-dono.

“ ... Was there something you wished to talk about?”

“There was, but without an established relationship of trust, the talk about hone ... the talk can’t be done without trust.”

I once again smiled and stood up, but Brian-dono’s flustered voice resounded across the house.

“Ho, hone, you mean it’s a talk about honey?”

“Shh~. This is a confidential talk, we can talk about it after we further strengthen our relationship of trust.”

I stopped him with an index finger placed in front of my nose before I checked left and right and said with a soft voice.

“What is it about?”

“Hmm.”

While pretending to be worried, I took out a small 100ml bottle and stopped right before I passed it to Brian-dono.

“This is honey. If you feel like trusting me, please come visit the Healer’s Guild.”

After saying that, this time, I handed it over to Brian-dono.

Brian-dono trembled as he took the lid off the bottle, dripped the honey on his hand and licked.

Brian-dono who began trembling violently made sure to cap the bottle before flying out of the door.

The next moment, with light emitting out of his body accompanied by a 『Bofun』 sound, Brian-dono became giant.

Then, “Kuma!”, he gave out an amazing roar.

“ ... Doesn’t he seem larger compared to before?”

“So there are various types of beastmen as well huh ...”

“I was surprised nya~!?”

While listening to the surprised remarks from the original two, I thought “Wouldn’t this make it obvious that he just ate honey?” but decided to give him a warning after his giant form ends.

About 5 minutes later, the wolf beastmen and dragonewt guards came to investigate but they were convinced by my explanation that I gave him some leftover honey and left.

That caused me to facepalm as it indicated that this happened every time.

His body returned back to his small size 30 minutes after his transformation.

Now stood Brian-dono who had finally returned to his original ... or a size smaller than before due to the fact that he was prostrating on the ground.

By the way, it seems like the person who spread the usage of dogeza was Philosopher-sama so I’ve already concluded that Philosopher-sama was a reincarnated individual as well as a Japanese.

“I did not expect such a transformation due to the honey but I am not angry as well so please raise your head.”

“What are you saying. That was the first time I’ve ever tasted honey that is of such high quality, with not one bit of impurities ... or rather, with such condensed magical power. If one is a bear beastmen, it is natural to pledge allegiance.”

So that honey was of finest quality huh...

It was great that I helped the bee tribe.

After such exchanges, when I asked about the previous tiger beastmen, he began speaking unreservedly.

“Ienith has a total of 10 beastmen races but there originally was 14 races.”

“What were the 4 races?”

“Cow beastmen, horse beastmen, monkey beastmen and elephant beastmen. They were expelled from Ienith due to various reasons.”

“ ... When I first heard of this country, I heard that there were individuals who do not want to bind themselves to this city as well as races that want to flaunt their territories in the wide Ienith land?”

Brian-dono shook his head and spoke.

“They were driven out due to the race having too few numbers or from repeated battles. Nobody wants to make a village or settlement where monsters roam about freely.”

“ ... Then, the tiger beastmen that were previously here?”

“We were told to not cooperate with Luciel-dono, wholesale herbs to the Herbalist Guild as we have done up until now, and to not let this be known to the other races.”

“And if the secret is out?”

“We would most likely be harassed by the centaurs.”

Including Shaza, they are seriously without hope.

Unlike the dragonewt tribe, they do not have any deviousness. Ah, let's go visit the Adventurer's Guild after this.

“I understand. I will send a subordinate tomorrow night, follow that person and come to the Healer's Guild. I'll have you all pledge once there but I do not intend to do anything detrimental to the bear beastmen.”

“Luciel-dono, no, Luciel-sama, please take care of the bear beastmen.”

I guess he had been under enormous pressure.

Brian-dono once again said with a deep bow.

“Let us both work hard together.”

We were seen off by Brian-dono as we headed for the Adventurer's Guild.

“What do you mean?”

“There's no problem with Brian-dono, but they are without a doubt rough. Once they have a taste of power they would not be able to let it go.”

Lionel said with a heavy nod.

“There's a chance that you might need to condemn them nya.”

Cathy was grinning but today I somehow felt that her mood was bad.

“ ... Please give me a break from that ... There’s a high risk that they would topple the power balance.”

“If it is similar to what happened to the original Adventurer’s Labyrinth Nation’s capital Grandol, it is just a question of sooner or later.”

“Luciel-sama just do what you plan to do nya. Lionel-sama and I will support you nya.”

“Yeah. I’m counting on you two.”

When I said that, the 2 of them exchanged gazes and spoke while laughing.

“I suddenly feel itchy all over.”

“ ... I’ve been surprised the second time for today nya~.”

I felt gratitude toward the 2 of them, especially after yesterday.

“Come on! Let’s go.”

We began walking toward the Adventurer’s Guild with the usual formation, with me right in the middle, Lionel walking ahead and Cathy protecting the rear.

Chapter 90

Disturbing rumours about the Philosopher's past

When we arrived at the Adventurer's Guild, voices came from within.

"Dragonlayer."

"Dragonewt's messenger."

"Torturer from hell."

"Object X's poster child."

I understand dragon slayer, but aren't all the others weird? Even I would drown in tears after hearing those words.

My heart denied all the voices from the surroundings and I headed toward the reception.

"Good afternoon. I wish to meet with either Jasuan-dono or Jias-dono, is it alright?"

"Ple, please wait a moment."

The cat beastman receptionist ran up the stairs.

Jasuan-dono appeared with a green face and was sweating profusely.

"Jasuan-dono, I'll be hurt if you show such demeanour. I only made you drink that because I was seriously angry."

"Ha, haha. What are you talking about? What can I do for you?" (*TL: He spoke super politely.*)

Object X has the power to implant trauma into the dragonewts huh.

While feeling slightly sympathetic toward Jasuan-dono, I conveyed my business to him.

"I wish to talk about the matter regarding attracting adventurers as well as regarding the monsters within the undeveloped forest that expand across the undeveloped land."

After I said that, Jasuan-dono transformed from his previous comedic appearance and spoke.

"It's inconvenient to speak here so please come to the guildmaster's room."

Thinking that there was some trouble brewing from his expression, I followed Jasuan-dono and visited the guildmaster's room.

Jias-dono was there as well.

Possibly due to them being siblings, seeing Jasuan-dono's serious expression, he offered his seat.

"And so, what do you wish to talk about the matter regarding attracting adventurers as well as the monsters within the undeveloped forest that expand across the undeveloped land?"

Jasuan-dono reiterated the question to inform Jias-dono as well.

"Yeah. Yesterday, I headed to the undeveloped forest to procure materials. The monsters we defeated there were mostly the commonly heard of goblins, orcs, and wolf type monsters."

"I see, so you entered the undeveloped forest."

Jias-dono furrowed his brows and closed his eyes.

"There were trolls and mandrakes as well but I did not imagine that those monsters are traded with high prices so I came to confirm with the Adventurer's Guild."

Jias-dono opened his eyes and began speaking.

"Mandrakes are traded at about 10 gold coins by the Herbalist Guild so they are without a doubt costly materials. However, that is the only expensive material within that forest."

"... What do you mean?"

"There are rumours about that forest being the habitat of spirits."

But it really is?

"....."

"Ah, I understand that there are none today. However, in the past, I heard that there were many adventurers who aimed to obtain its blessing or get rich quick by capturing the spirit."

Looks like a lot happened to the water spirit but this is a different matter from that.

"So what do you mean by that is all there is to the forest now?"

“Apparently, the adventurers kept losing their way and the monsters attacked regardless of day or night. Moreover, there was once an outbreak of monsters from the forest and a stampede occurred but I heard that Philosopher-sama solved it.”

“Did Philosopher-sama ... cleanse the forest?”

“According to the literature from that time, he summoned numerous spirits and defeated thousands of monsters alone.”

“ ... Sounds like he was very strong.”

“Yeah. However, after defending Ienith, he remarked that “There’s no way those who hold malicious intent can see spirits!” so adventurers and merchants began leaving Ienith.”

I somehow had an inkling to what happened next.

“ Don’t tell me the reason why there wasn’t a Healer’s Guild in Ienith was because?”

“ ... Yeah. Philosopher-sama supported Ienith when he was alive and the construction of the wells and spice seeds is told to be brought by Philosopher-sama. However, it is also said that Philosopher-sama was the one who brought about the poverty and when we were young, I heard that he was chased out of Ienith.”

Saving Ienith from the monster’s onslaught, he spoke out for the sake of the spirits which caused the economic crisis of Ienith. Philosopher-sama took responsibility by not only investing his own money, he also worried about the future of their industry but ... it’s saddening to see that he is resented by the subsequent generations.”

“By any chance was that related to the start of the humanoid-supremacy group?”

“ ... I can’t say that it is unrelated. There was certainly records that there were many beastwomen among the wives of Philosopher-sama.”

So Philosopher-sama was a Riajuu huh. *(TL: Riajuu = Someone with a fulfilling life/successful social life)*

Well, he did his work splendidly and he surely must have been ... it’s pointless to have delusions and to drop dirty jokes so I’ll stop there. *(TL: He was going to say his member must have been splendid as well hahaha.)*

“If we want to attract adventurers, where would you designate the hunt for monsters?”

That’s the fundamental question.

If there are particularly strong and high-value monsters then there would not be any problem.

For example, the retired adventurers can work as escorts to the borders of the country, sell honey and mead, sow seeds in the fields and study cotton, those that are good in fieldwork can change their job as well.

Whether or not it's beneficial or detrimental, I believe that by arranging for clothes, food, and lodging and making the place easy to live in, it would definitely make the city a place people would want to live in.

Jias-dono stood up and took out a map.

"You've seen this map before but here."

Jias-dono pointed at a blank zone.

"Wasn't it only mountains or rather cliffs there?"

"Yeah. But according to the reports, I heard that it does not continue as cliffs indefinitely."

..... Heard?

"You mentioned that you heard of it, who did you hear from?"

"A bird beastmen."

I did not have a good impression of Ienith's tiger, bird and rabbit beastmen. *(TL: I understand tiger but I don't know why bird and rabbit as well...did they do something?)*

"Incidentally, what can be found there?"

"I received reports that there were Harpies and Lamias, Rock Lizards and the Fairies, Nymphs and Dryads as well as other never seen before monsters."

It was like a fantasy monster parade, but doesn't this contradict the words from the Philosopher?

"Confirming the report ... can't be done huh. Who was the bird beastman?"

"He never appeared after that. Hence, the Adventurer's Guild never confirmed his story." Most likely because it was too suspicious.

Furthermore, there was no evidence ... I thought that they are easily swayed but are the adventurers different?

“However once we expand, or wait there’s that huh. So troublesome.”

“Yeah. In actual fact, many adventurers suffered injuries. After that, the labyrinth increased activity so this story disappeared but I heard that it resurfaced once again.”

Alongside the description by Jias-dono with a meek expression, Jasuan-dono made an expression as if it was the first time he heard of it but I’ll put that aside for now.

“ ... I see. It smells like trouble but please work hard. By the way, I have prepared dwellings for the sake of attracting adventurers.”

“I’m delighted to hear that but you did well to prepare such a budget.”

... I see. So he is picky about money after all but that means the profits ... is he pooling them somewhere and exploiting it?

... I’ll have to think about it later.

I smiled and answered.

“I paid from my own pocket. Because of that, I intend to hold all rights to it. Incidentally, the location is scheduled to be the current slums district. The inspection will be conducted by the Adventurer’s Guild so I wish to trouble you all to do so.”

“ ... Slums district ... looks like you have something planned. Seems like we’ll have to select decent personnel as well.”

He stiffened and I wondered why was he the vice guildmaster, but I am also more useless compared to Jordo-san so I guess I’ll have to open my mind to the possibility that the number 2 manages the organization. I stood up and lowered my head.

“Yeah. If I leave it to Jias-dono and Jasuan-dono, I believe that you 2 would be able to interview adventurers who can work without discriminating. Later, I’ll write down the adventurers who I wish to hire as well as the requirements for the adventurers who want to retire and pass it to you so I’ll leave it in your hands.”

“”Yes.””

Jasuan-dono and Jias-dono stood up and corrected their posture before replying. Thinking that it is alright to trust these 2 people, I decided to ask another thing of them.

“I wish to meet with the Herbalist Guild’s guildmaster so please act as an intermediary for us.”

“Understood.”

I smiled lightly as I left.

After leaving the Adventurer’s Guild, we began returning to the Healer’s Guild.

“The plan will gradually begin with this but seems like it will be hard for it to proceed smoothly.”

“We must extract the bad buds when it is still early.”

“We never know if this might be somebody’s conspiracy nya.”

“Ha~. Hey you two, won’t you consider dispelling the slave contract and becoming my followers? It’s fine by me if you want to be on equal footing with me as well.”

I said and the 2 of them laughed and replied with the same words.

“I would like to remain as a slave. I am already a vassal to Luciel-sama in my heart so please work me to your fullest.”

“Same as Lionel-sama nya. Moreover, I can collect information from various aspects as a slave so leave it to me nya.”

“... As expected ... huh.”

I dropped my shoulder and walked as I thought of how to overcome the future.

Chapter 91

Luciel's plan

After returning to the Healer's Guild, we headed directly for the basement.

The underground 1st floor has completely been converted into a pasture.

"..... I guess the fields on this floor have already been moved to the underground 3rd floor."

"So amazing."

"Paula and the elf are rivals who love magic tools nya. Looks like Dolan-san regulated their competitive spirit well."

Their words were exactly my thoughts.

The ones who are delighted with this new setup are only Fornoir and the horses but well I guess that is fine in its own right.

However, I wonder how the underground 3rd floor is like?

I became curious and would not be able to calm down without confirming it.

We immediately descended down the stairs.

"... This is definitely abnormal."

My true feelings spilled out from my mouth.

We arrived at the underground 3rd floor.

It had always been Dolan and Paula's workshop to the right-hand side while the opposite end was a wall.

Where the wall once was now spread a field of about an area of 10a (1000m²) with trees planted without much particular order.

In addition, similar to the underground 1st floor, a pseudo-sun have already been properly constructed.

I've certainly thought that by entrusting it to him, Dolan would have expanded the underground 3rd floor but I did not imagine that they had already progressed to half the goal.

“ ... If I ever had the desire to make it, won't they be able to create an underground country?”

Lionel and Cathy could only nod at my mutterings.

When we approached closer, the Hacchi tribe Haniru-dono noticed us and flew over.

“Philosopher-sama, they are amazing alright. If it is here, we would be able to live with a peace of mind.”

“Hahaha. Well, even I was surprised by this. However, the city of Ienith does not seem to be as safe as you think so it is safer to slowly move in after the base for Haniru-dono's Hacchi tribe is made.”

“ ... I see. Then, please allow us to accompany you when you all head for the forest for the next material procurement. I'm thinking about bringing along individuals from the settlement as well as the seeds of the flowers and trees that produce honey.”

I noticed a slight look of sympathy exuding from his gaze toward my efforts but he seems more positive about it compared to yesterday ... eh? Isn't this a sign of OK? I asked to confirm.

“You mean?”

“Yeah. Please let us assist you.”

Alright!! With this, the personnel required for the domestic affairs of the underground have been perfectly assembled.

This time, a large portion of credit went to Dolan and Paula, they certainly did a good job.

Looks like Dolan have firmly grabbed onto the Hacchi tribe's hearts.

While praising Dolan for a good job in my mind, I told Haniru-dono that tomorrow night we will have a meeting with the bear beastman Brian-dono and the slum's boss Dollarstar-san.

"I see. Philosopher-sama not only did work for this underground area but also worked hard at various other places as well."

"Yeah. Nevertheless, I initially anticipated that it would take a long time, longer than half a year, for this place to take form so I would be better able to concentrate on the work above ground if your Hacchi tribe is here."

I smiled while nodding to show that I felt really glad.

"If that's the case then shouldn't we immediately head for the forest?"

"No, we are still constructing the storage facility to house the materials and considering whether to confer anti-fire precautions. Either way, we would have to head toward the forest to procure magic stones."

It would be troublesome if our usage of magic stone underground is leaked out so I had given up on purchasing magic stones from the Adventurer's Guild.

"So it means it will be soon?"

"Yeah. I plan to do so a few days later. At that time, with the dwarves and elves, we should be able to transplant the trees without much burden on them so please don't refrain from letting us know which trees to transplant."

"As expected of Philosopher-sama to think so far ahead."

Staring at me with sparkling eyes, I could not say that I did not give much thought into it and I applied a mask of smiles from beginning to the end.

I wanted to continue with work but it seemed like time for lunch so I called for everyone to have lunch.

By the time we reached the canteen, Naria had already finished preparing the food. Apparently she was aided by the slave boys and girls that she taught.

"How is it Naria?"

I didn't specify anything.

"It's going well. I should be able to push them up to the minimum line if I have 3 months."

I don't know what her minimum line is but the slave boys and girls all had happy expressions.

The slaves here were made up of humans and half beastkin, with 3 boys and 8 girls.

Apart from the 3 elves, the boys and girls here were all below 20 years old, with some even younger than me. Those orphans under 15 were taken care by the adults and the others received occupational training from Naria for a year.

I also knew that apart from Naria, the off-duty healers and priest knights also taught them various things.

There were prototypes of schools here so I strongly felt that to let the younger generation succeed, there needs to be a school that allows anybody to enter and provides an environment to study after all.

After lunch, I returned to the guildmaster's room and looked at the parchments I received from Dolan and the others.

“..... So we need more than 2000 orc-class magic stones huh ... Why do the 2 of you look so delighted?”

“Well~ Going to the forest or to the labyrinth, I don't mind either of them.”

“Do remember to bring along escorts when you go out nya.”

“No, I'll be bringing you guys along. I'll be bringing you guys along but there definitely won't be combat, please cherish your lives more.”

“I'll firmly guard you this time as well.”

“I'll tightly escort you this time nya.”

While thinking that the 2 of them completely blazing with motivations felt both reliable but also slightly sweltering, I slightly changed the topic.

“I fully understand that the 2 of you are very competent ... taking into consideration the horse beastmen that appeared in the reports, there might be cases where we need to fight with beastmen.”

“... Well, I'm pretty sure we will have to.”

“I’ll decide on whether to kill them or incapacitate them depending on my opponent’s strength nya.”

“I’ve killed monsters and killed animals for food but I have never killed those who can speak the same words as humans. I might not even be able to fight.”

Coming to this world, I have killed monsters and animals, dismantled them and ate them.

However, I have not killed people or beastmen.

Even though it is a life all the same ... and I understand that it is contradictory, but I still feel that there is something different.

Something within me must have gone wrong.

I felt like trembling from the fear of thinking about it but Lionel spoke in a calm voice and Cathy spoke after him.

“That is alright Luciel-sama. Except when it is unavoidable, allow us to carry out the dirty work.”

“Luciel-sama can reach out your hand as always nya. We will drive away the hands of the wicked nya.”

... Isn’t that way too cool? There must be a reason why they stubbornly deny getting released from the slave contract. I’m not sure if I can resolve it but I set my mind to one day repay my debt towards them.

“ ... Thank you.”

The 2 of them laughed and we discussed the plan harmoniously and spent our time conducting combat training in the underground 4th floor after we came to a conclusion.

The next night, Dollarstar-san and 3 subordinates and Brian-dono and 2 followers visited the Healer’s Guild and we began our meeting in the guildmaster’s room together with Haniru-dono and the others.

“Thank you for gathering today. The reason why we are gathered here today is with regard to a new domestic affairs plan. I’ve had you all pledge previously so I believe you all already understand but please allow me to explain slightly more into detail. We’ll first start with some self-introductions.”

I smiled slightly and looked at all their faces. Dollarstar-san raised his hand and began his self-introduction.

“I function as the boss of the slums district, the name’s Dollarstar. We came into contact with the S-rank Healer-sama there because my youngsters attacked him and were turned into slaves. He found out about the situation with regards to the half beastmen and offered a helping hand. I bet my life and swear allegiance.”

Saying it so over the top will cause the others to pull back okay.

The next to raise his hand was Haniru-dono.

“I am Haniru of the Hacchi tribe. My clan in the forest was saved by Philosopher-sama when we were on the brink of destruction. I’m impressed by Philosopher-sama’s magnificent plans so I wish to cooperate in this business venture.”

I noticed that the bear beastmen’s eyes grew brighter when they heard Hacchi tribe.

“I am the bear beastman, Brian. Our race was being oppressed due to our small numbers but Luciel-sama gave a helping hand and offered honey so we chose to affiliate ourselves with him.”

Affiliation ... sounds like the merger and acquisitions of some listed companies? It’s like I acquired the bear beastmen company from Ienith using honey ...

Although it is the truth, he talked about honey unnecessarily but it’s great that Haniru-dono smiled when he heard that, but I wonder if he felt some aversion toward it or felt irritated.

For the time being it seems alright so I sighed in relief.

“This time, we will advance our discussion is 3 stages. First, the dismantlement of the slums district. Second, the dwellings to attract adventurers for the establishment of the school. Third, regarding the new business.”

After declaring that, looking at the surrounding, other than Brian-dono with a blank look, the others all nodded in silence.

“Firstly, the schedule for the dismantlement of the slums district, or before that, have the construction schedule for the Healing District been decided upon?”

“I’ve not heard from them. They most likely plan to blame it on us if the schedule is delayed anyway.”

Well, if that’s how they do it, we’ll just rapidly push forward our work.

“I’ll push them during the next meeting. Half a day should be enough for us to convert the area into a vacant lot. However, we need magic stones so please take into consideration that the soonest it will be done will be one month later.”

“Is it really alright to prioritize the construction of the healing district? I have already obtained consent from the slum residents to move to new residences so aren’t there other things we ought to do?”

Dollarstar-san asked worriedly but I’ve already confirmed that there would not be any problems with Dolan and the letters have already been written so there should not be any problems.

“Yeah. There are none as of now. We’ll move on to the second agenda now.”

I confirmed with my surroundings and continued.

“With regards to the school and adventurer’s dwellings, the houses for the school and adventurers will be constructed parts-wise so it’s alright.”

I said and nodded with a smile.

“What do you mean by parts-wise? In the first place, is a school possible?”

Brian-dono could not take in everything and it was obvious that the approved agenda from the representative meeting attended by all the leaders was not transmitted to him.

“Yes. That was approved during the meeting with the leaders.”

“That will all be paid for by Luciel-sama?”

“It seems that way right? There are various gimmicks applied here but ultimately I will not suffer any losses. Though, please keep this a secret.”

It looked like Brian-dono was interested in the school apart from his interest in honey.

“For the 3rd agenda, it would be easier to understand by actually seeing it. Please follow me.”

It was then that the eyes of Dollarstar-san, Brian-dono and their followers who entered the underground for the first time were opened wide.

And when they knew of the plan, Brian-san and his 2 followers all unanimously said.

『Are you a god!』

I was reminded of the time when I first met Paula and laughed, but I immediately denied it and only said a few words.

“Let us all work hard together from here on out.”

The bear beastmen all transformed with a 『Bofun』 sound and roared.

『Kuma~~~!!』 *(TL: Kuma = Bear just in case you all don't know)*

After their cries ended, Brian-dono prostrated on the ground with his enormous frame and spoke.

“We vow to do our best from now on for the sake of Luciel-sama and honey.”

That overly large impact dumbfounded everyone in the beginning but laughter soon rang out.

Seems like they transform every time they get excited.

Thinking that the bear beastmen are really amusing after getting to know a new fact about them, I requested a few things that I wanted Brian-dono to help with.

I assigned Kefin squad and Yarubo squad to escort them to ensure that they reached home safely.

“What do you think?”

“There shouldn't be any problems with them. However, other than the dragonewts, we might get tripped by the other 7 races if we do not thoroughly investigate them.”

“Please leave that to me nya. Apart from when we depart for the forest, could I have a little freedom to move around nya?”

“I’ll assign Kefin and the others as well but please do not push yourself too hard.”

“I understand nya.”

Thus, the first behind-the-scenes meeting had ended.

In preparation for the leader’s meeting 2 days later, I thought of causing a stir.

Chapter 92

Written pledge

Within the mansion where the leaders gather at the northern central region of the capital Ienith, I attended a meeting with the representatives of the 8 races.

The fox beastman representative Forens acted as the chairperson of the meeting.

“Well then, we shall begin this representatives meeting. Firstly, allow me to present the various earnings of the Merchant’s Guild.”

Forens-dono summarised the reports of the net incomes and expenditures of the state-owned shops and the Merchant’s Guild.

He reported in detail what was sold last month and how it was sold along with the income.

I stayed silent for the time being as the dragonewt and tiger beastmen did not speak out during this report.

“That is all. Please raise your hand if you have any questions, if not we will proceed on to our next agenda ... there doesn’t seem to be any so the next agenda would be the progress of the respective fields, Olga-dono please start.”

“Yes. Regarding this month’s harvest ... ”

He explained about the harvested spices, the spices that can be obtained next month, and the presence or absence of disease.

Next, the rabbit beastman Ririaldo-dono reported on the extension of the fields and the presence or absence of monsters.

The dog beastman Sebec-dono proceeded to report on the fields that they have cultivated.

“Next, regarding security, it has always been managed by Jack-dono until now but from now on it will be managed by Kyasral-dono.”

“Four days ago the bear beastmen transformed but other than that there were no other remarkable incidents.”

It was eye-catching ... alright.

“Regarding that incident, I handed over the honey I possessed so I apologize. I sometimes use it in cooking but the other day when Souther-dono accompanied me, the bear beastman Brian-dono requested for me to import honey and I judged that it was impossible to achieve immediately so ...”

“There’s no helping it if you gave them honey.”

Souther-dono said as he spoke from above.

“Then moving on, Souther-dono, any updates on the monitoring of the skies?”

“No problems.”

Souther-dono answered.

“Okay. Well then, do the 8 races have anything ... I apologize. Including Luciel-dono, please raise your hand if you wish to suggest anything.”

Nobody raised their hands. I guess this happens normally.

Are they planning to ignore the work they promised to do just like this?

There was a need to ask about that and the meeting would be totally meaningless if it ended like this.

Since that’s the case, I’ll have to use the report I received well.

I thought until that point and raised my hand.

“ ... So, Luciel-dono.”

There was a momentary pause but I’ll ignore that.

For the domestic affairs that I plan to gradually advance, even if they originally do not have the motivation to do it, as long as I convince them then there wouldn’t be any problems.

“Since yesterday, I have something that I’ve been bothered with but rather than a report it’s more of a question. Firstly, who is supposed to drive the plans for the healing district? In addition, how about the structure of that plot of land and the relocation of the people

living there? Who is responsible for the budget and to acquire the manpower required to construct it?”

I asked and the room became dead silent.

I imagine they did not think that I would ask about the healing district.

I can also somewhat understand that it would not proceed at all if nothing is done.

However, I will not allow them to disregard their verbal promises.

“What’s the matter? If it has not been decided upon, is it alright if we distribute the responsibilities here? I think that there is no reason for us to scrap the decision to make the healing district that was made during the representative meeting.”

I said and laughed.

“ ... Regarding that, we are currently deciding on the allocation of budget.”

“I see. What is the progress status? Is the budgeting team made up of only Forens-dono?”

“No, I plan to carry it out together with the dragonewts.”

“I see. Well then Jack-dono, swear to the dragon and tell me about the progress status?”

“ ... It’s the first time I’ve heard of this.”

He looked like he just received a bolt from the blue.

Normally they would dodge the question but since I’ve been told that they would not lie to me because I possess the blessing of a dragon, it was the natural outcome.

“I see. Well then Forens-dono? What is the meaning of this?”

“Well everybody will forget about conversations sometimes.”

Olga-dono said and cut into the conversation.

“I see. That is true. I trust that everything will be put in place by next month’s report. Including the construction period, personnel, and budget.”

“ ... Yes. I understand.”

He nodded.

“Second, of the 6154 residents living in Ienith, 1600 are children. Leaving those 1600 people out from the calculation for the payment of workers, there should be quite a sum of money floating but is it left floating somewhere?”

“That should not be the case, please wait a moment.”

Forens-dono tossed out his facilitator role and went to collect the ledger.

“Did I anger him? Ah, that’s right Souther-dono, I wish to ask something, I heard that there was a brave bird beastman who drew a map of the blank area to the left of Ienith, is it true?”

“ ... I have heard of such rumours but I did not hear about who it was.”

“I see. Then, could you help me find out by next month’s meeting? It’s for the sake of attracting adventurers so please report even if he doesn’t exist. Because I’ll have to think of other strategies to attract them.”

“ ... Understood. It seemed like he was an adventurer so I’m sorry if there really isn’t such a person ...”

“No worries. I’ll entrust it to you.”

I answered with a smile and this time I spoke to the tiger beastmen’s representative.

He should be Shaza’s substitute but I could not establish a good impression of him. Maybe it’s because he is a tiger beastman?

“Within the report just now, there was the talk about the day that the bear beastmen transformed, but apparently the people from the tiger beastmen race have been applying pressure on Brian-dono, have you heard about this as the representative of the tiger beastmen?”

After I said that, Souther-dono reacted before the tiger beastman could.

“What! I’ve already told them to lay low after the incident with Shaza, what are they thinking.”

Under that intimidation, the tiger beastman opened his mouth in a hurry.

“Pl, please let me verify the facts. It’s the first time I’ve heard of it.”

I don’t know if he was panicking because he really didn’t know about it or because Brian-dono talked about it but I felt that the atmosphere was gradually getting chaotic.

The representative’s office term is 2 years.

Moreover, this time, it was only for a year and there wasn’t any policy about it.

For the healing district case as well, I felt that all of them were not well-informed about the wages and payment for each of the races.

The representatives were most likely just figureheads.

Which was why it was fine as long as they did not cause harm to their own races.

“There’s one other point regarding that question. Who is the person who pays the workers’ using the national treasury?”

“ ... The representative in office.”

Olga-dono showed an expression of serious thought.

“I see ... that’s right. Well then, I also have something to report regarding the school and slums district. I’ll start with the progress, the slums district is expected to be dismantled 3 months later. Next, the school and houses meant to attract the adventurers are expected to be constructed on the vacant lot within 3 months to half a year.”

“That’s wonderful. Nevertheless, you did well to erect a plan to eliminate the half beastmen.”

Ririaldo-dono said that so he agrees to eliminate the half beastmen.

“I did not eliminate them. I moved them to a place that matches them.”

I gave a grin.

“That’s amazing.”

The dog beastman Sebec-dono, cat beastman Kyasral-dono, and the quarreling bird beastman Souther-dono and Shaza’s substitute all gave a smile.

The wolf beastman Olga-dono and the dragonewt Jack-dono gave anxious and sorrowful expressions.

“And so, the construction cost and the magic stones cost a total of 30 white gold coins but naturally the country would bear the cost right?”

I said with a smile and the replies were all as expected.

“Ienith’s economy would go bankrupt.”

“You should know that we can’t draw out such an amount.”

“Didn’t you mention in the previous meeting that you would not apply material costs?”

“No, I only specified the logs taken from the undeveloped forest. I said that I would not draw funds from the national treasury for directing adventurers to the undeveloped land but I did not say a word about everything being free?”

“No, I’m pretty sure you said that you would not claim for anything apart from manpower costs.”

Ririaldo-dono said so but it was completely his own assumptions.

“Hahaha. That’s wrong? The person who said that was Ririaldo-dono. I only said to leave the slums district to me? Please recall why I became the representative for this city even though it does not benefit me.”

I rejected his claims.

“Luciel-dono, thank you for waiting.”

“Oh, Forens-dono. And so, what did you find?”

“ As what you said, the accounting does not tally.”

“Meaning?”

“Seems like there’s corruption happening somewhere. Thanks to that, it would be difficult to extract the funds that you requested for earlier.”

“The plan is already advancing so 5 white gold coin has already been used?”

“ ... That ...”

“ ... Surely you don’t intend for me to invest all of my personal funds for the sake of Ienith right?”

I scanned each of the representatives and all of them averted their line of sight.

“So I’ve been treated as a fool ... If so then I’ll throw out the exchange conditions. Firstly, I wish to purchase the entire area of the current slums district of Ienith.”

Rather than objecting to that, they all had puzzled expressions.

“Next, I will construct the school and all of the adventurers houses but the rights will belong to the Healer’s Guild.”

“What about the entrance requirements for the school?”

Seems like Olga-dono wants Shiela-chan to attend the school by all means.

“I’ve mentioned it previously but for children, it is basically free of charge. Forens-dono, is it the country that buys the herbs from the Herbalist Guild? Or is it the Merchant’s Guild?”

“The Merchant’s Guild handles it.”

“I see. If that’s the case, then if the church makes something for sale, I wish to have the authorization to sell the items without paying intermediary fees. Those are my 3 requests.”

“Purchasing the slums district, buildings and rights, and authorization to sell products without intermediary fees Usually, it would be allowed given it is individual assets, but

I can't grant it to a person from Saint Schull's Allied Nations. The second request can be allowed with conditions attached. I can acknowledge the third request."

"What are the conditions for the second?"

"To comply when Ienith requests to purchase it."

"..... That's fine. Finally, I'll say this, I don't want to go into dispute for claims that I did not say it. All the various race's representatives here acknowledged it. Also, I would like your signatures on this written pledge."

I took out a parchment and wrote down the words I said just now.

Then, after the others all certified it, I channelled magical power into the written pledge and dedicated it to the Chief God Kuraiya. *(TL: Ooo so that's how it works)*

It was recorded that one would lose their right as the representative if their own race broke their promise so there were some who paused for a moment but eventually they all signed.

It was decided that 3 written pledge copies would be made, one would be kept by me, another kept in the leader's mansion and the last one stored for safe keeping in the Adventurer's Guild.

The reason why it was kept in the Adventurer's Guild because there was the content about attracting adventurers so the suggestion was accepted smoothly.

"This will end the meeting today. Please circulate the information to your respective race. Let us construct the school and the housing for the adventurers. Also, I sincerely request for the cooperation of the Adventurer's Guild and healing district to make it such that the adventurers have a peace of mind when earning a living."

"From now, I'll have the dragonewts, tiger beastmen, and bear beastmen begin work to gradually expand the city to make land for the healing district. I'll talk to the residents to adjust for the move. The bird beastmen shall closely communicate with the Adventurer's Guild to explore the matter about the monsters. The other races please continue to do your best for the fields."

Forens-dono gave out instructions to each race.

Forens-dono's eyes were bloodshot from confirming that there was fraud occurring so nobody could stop him now with that atmosphere.

Thus, the monthly meeting of representative ended.

As I was walking back, I thought to myself that it was the crucial period from now on.

Originally, I thought that I had to be more cunning.

To obtain full authority for the slums district and to keep the current factory operation in the Healer's Guild a secret.

However, a single person's oral pledge would not be binding so there was a need to put forth a written pledge that binds the whole race like I did this time.

I've been in this world for too long and had gotten the bad habit of relying on pledges that were not writing down on paper.

It was thanks to Forens-san that I noticed that.

As I was deep in thought, Lionel laughingly told me.

"This time, the target on your life would be delayed for 3 months."

"... Yeah. Somehow, but ..."

"This time, Luciel-sama's word were slightly dangerous nya. It wouldn't be strange if the conversation somehow fell apart nya."

"Ugh, sorry."

It's been a long time since I had business negotiations so my words were all over the place and the sequence of talks was totally wrong.

"If you can't learn to emit a stronger personality, you would not be able to establish what you want to establish nya."

"That's the thing, Cathy. Luciel-sama is still 20 years old, there's still plenty of time."

Lionel said with a smile but I am actually 35 years old with a 5 years gap where I was not working so I don't really have any excuses.

"To be honest, without Cathy's intelligence, we would not have been able to pull Forens-dono into our alliance. Thank you."

"I was the one who passed on the information but Luciel-sama was the one who thought of a way to make him an ally nya."

Forens-dono's wife was in a condition that she could not see with her eyes.

Yesterday I received that report and went to Forens-dono's house to treat his wife.

That was it.

To be able to investigate the reticent Forens-dono, Cathy and Kefin's group's work led to the success of this time's meeting.

Thinking about what will come in the future, I decided in my heart to properly role-play the situations for events such as meetings that I know about ahead of time.

Chapter 93

Herbalist Guild guildmaster

When we returned to the Healer's Guild after the monthly meeting, there was a message from the Adventurer's Guild's Jasuan-dono.

"I'm sorry but I would have to trouble you to visit the Herbalist Guild tomorrow at noon. That was the message he conveyed."

I heard the report from a female slave.

Perhaps it was due to Naria's teaching or due to her original education, I felt that I could give the female slave full passing marks as a receptionist.

"I see. Please continue to work hard under Naria."

She happily bowed after I said that.

My heart softened a little looking at that and I headed down to the underground.

"Is the underground 3rd floor completed already?"

"Not yet."

Dolan appeared when I muttered that as I saw the large and wide space.

"You've been seriously working very well lately."

I conveyed words of appreciation to Dolan.

He really accomplished such a major undertaking with just Paula, I can seriously bow down to him.

"What are you saying, it's giving me goose bumps. Luciel-sama was the one who came up with such grand ideas, I merely possess the strength to realise it. That's all there is to it."

Dolan also doesn't waver huh ... I thought as I checked on the progress.

"... I see. Then what about the school and the houses for the adventurers?"

“Since they would all be the same, once we complete one house, all the other houses could be constructed based on it so it would be done quickly. However, magic stones and wood are insufficient, as stated in the report.”

“Development of that is postponed for the time being.”

“ ... That’s regrettable. That made my spirit boil the most.”

Dolan sighed as he shook his head.

“Luciel ... sama. The analysis has been completed.” Paula called out.

“Don’t say it like you analysed it all by yourself. Luciel-sama, I led and completed the analysis of the items you acquired in the labyrinth.” Rician interrupted our conversation.

“ ... Firstly, the bracelet.” Paula ignored Rician and passed to me the bracelet I acquired from a treasure box in the 47th floor of the labyrinth.

“It is an item that would be activated when the user channels magical power into it and says the magic word. A wind barrier would form with the weaver in the center and it can guard against fire and ice magic as well as breath attacks.”

..... Barrier?

“ ...Perhaps, if that is activated, even the Red Dragon’s breath would be?”

“ ... The barrier might break for all we know.”

Paula said while diverting her eyes.

“Luciel-sama, what is this Red Dragon you speak of?”

“The item inside the 50th floor treasure chest is the Key of the Hermit.”

Paula ignored Rician and handed me the key I acquired in the 50th floor.

“How is this used and what effects does it have?”

“If you channel magical power into the key and imagine an invisible door as you turn the key, you would be able to create a building within the space.”

..... It’s a cheat item different from what I had thought.

I thought that it was a key that could open anything but it’s a cheat item in a different sense.

“Does it mean that even if I set off on a journey I would be safe with this key?”

“ ”

Paula hesitated.

“That key is from a low rank lesser magic series of the Key of the Hermit series so people cannot enter the space.”

Rician described on behalf of Paula.

While thinking that those 2 were a surprisingly good combination, I was momentarily disappointed at the fact that people could not enter but doesn't it mean that I could journey without exposing Fornoir and the horses to danger?

“Would Fornoir and the horses be alright?”

“ ... Yeah. However, it is still a lesser magic key so it's more logical to sell it for a high price? You can sell it for a high price even in auctions.”

Rician emphasized her point but she is most likely hoping for funding or magic stones for development after all.

I've heard that that was the cause as to why she became a slave.

“I feel that I have a need for it so I don't have any intention of selling it.”

Rician kept quiet after I explicitly told her my intention.

“Regarding this book you entrusted to me, I could not decipher it.”

Evidently, I would need to consign it to an institution that deciphers words and ancient characters but as long as I have no idea what is written in it, it would remain within my magic bag.

After that, after spending time to talk about magic tools that would supply the fields with water and other magic tools that would make work more convenient, I explained to them that we would be heading to the forest in the morning the day after tomorrow.

“That's why, do not do things like pulling an all-nighter tomorrow night.”

After telling them that, I conveyed the same contents to Haniru of the Hacchi tribe and subsequently went for training.

The next day, me, Lionel and Cathy together with Jasuan-dono, the 4 of us came to the Herbalist Guild.

“I have not heard about the fine details yet but how did the other party react?”

“He immediately consented the moment I took out Luciel-sama's name. I was wary due to the Gurohara incident but apparently he have been wanting to meet Luciel-sama.”

“Is that so ... and until when would Jasuan-dono continue adding -sama to my name? I won't force you to drink Object X without any reason alright.”

“No, Luciel-sama's force can only be referred to as such. If possible please allow me to continue doing so.”

“ ... Please don't do so as much as possible. And definitely do not do it in public.”

“I will be careful.”

After entering the Herbalist Guild, instead of heading straight to the guildmaster's room, we were brought to the underground workshop.

Because of the smell that stung our noses, I passed nose plugs to Lionel and Cathy before entering the workshop.

Jasuan-dono was affected by the smell but he laughed that the pungent odour was weaker than Object X so he had no problem.

“Thank you for coming.”

The person inside the workshop noticed us and the racoon beastman greeted us with a grin.

“Smic-dono, can't you do something about this smell?”

“It's because I'm in the middle of compounding. Sorry.”

“As I informed you previously ... Luciel-sa,-dono, this is the Herbalist Guild's guildmaster Smic-dono. Smic-dono, this is Luciel-dono.”

... Why did he correct and repeat himself? Oh well it doesn't matter. Jais-dono had been mediating for us until now so I'll start by introduce myself.

“Nice to meet you, I'm Luciel, an S-rank healer. Thank you for making time for us today.”

“I've heard about Luciel-sama often. I'm Smic, the head of the Herbalist Guild.”

“We are able to treat wounds with magic but we cannot cure illness so I would be pleased if the Herbalist Guild would be a part of the healing district as well.”

“Thank you. By the way, what is this healing district?”

I could only see a racoon figurine when he tilted his head in doubt but I kept my presence of mind and replied.

“ ... Have you met with Jordo from the Healer's Guild?”

“I have not. It’s my job to make medicine in this Herbalist Guild so I delegate all other work to the vice-guildmaster. This time, the person-in-charge was sent by the Herbalist Guild so please rest easy.”

This person has not learnt from experience at all. Furthermore, he is the type that would completely do what he himself wants to do and abandon the Herbalist Guild’s profits.

It would be fine if he was a researcher but is the Herbalist Guild seriously alright?

“To put it simply, let us unite the Healer’s Guild and Herbalist Guild and create a place that can treat patients with injuries and illness.”

“Hou, that promising. Well, by the way, I heard from my nephew Warabis that Luciel-dono is an acquaintance of Garba and Grulga?”

Is that so.

He is Warabis-dono’s ... but he does not end his sentences with “Fu~”.

So it wasn’t a racial thing huh.

“Yeah. I was in their care tremendously in the town of Meratoni in the Saint Schull Allied Nations.”

“So you are aware of Object X?”

“Yes. It was originally a pill called God’s Grief made by Philosopher-sama but Object X began after the pill was refined by magic tools into a liquid form right?”

“Luciel-dono is so knowledgeable. That’s right. I am currently creating that.”

To think he was creating that, so he’s a mad scientist, no, a mad herbalist?

I’ll give an ordinary reaction for the time being.

“ ... Ooo~”

“I’m thinking that I would be able to dispel my long-standing grudge toward them by letting them eat the God’s Grief made by me.”

Smic-dono then issued a request to Jasuan-dono.

“Jasuan-dono, I’m sorry but I require fresh mandrakes. I’m offering 1 white gold coin per mandrake so I wish to put out a request to collect mandrakes that have last cried within 5 hours.”

“I’m sure I told you that I would not accept such a request. What do you intend to do if the monsters come to invade us?”

“ ... Why do you have a grudge toward Garba-san and Grulga-san?”

“ ... The job I obtained when I turned an adult was Herbalist. However, I did not shut myself in like this to create medicine. One day, my nephew Warabis angered the 2 of them and I stepped in when Grulga fed him food made with Object X.”

It’s amazing that he stepped in front of those 2 when they were angry.

“When I asked about why they were bullying Warabis, apparently Warabis sold personal belongings reportedly belonging to them to the children that admired them. Apparently there really were real personal belongings among the items.”

“ ... Isn’t it normal to be angered by that?”

“Yes. Even though the racoon beastmen is a race who loves to play pranks, that kind of act is unforgivable. Warabis fainted after eating the food from Grulga.”

Grulga-san and Garba-san were also mischievous to retaliate against a prank with Object X.

The reason why this region hates Object X should be the work of Grulga-san.

I listened to Smic-dono’s words.

“Grulga declared that he would forgive Warabis if he ate the same amount of dishes as the number of people he harmed so I also ate for Warabis’s sake.”

“ ... That was nice of you.”

“Well, I couldn’t just go home after butting in like that. In the end I could not finish it but the 2 of them still forgave him and promised to never do such a thing to Warabis.”

“ ... There has not been a reason to have such a grudge on the 2 of them up until this point?”

“The problem started from then. The girlfriend I had at that time dumped me because of the smell, this workplace also ordered me to make medicine in the underground workshop because of the smell and the smell of medication could no longer be removed from my body.”

Uwah~ It’s a completely unjustified resentment.

“Then shouldn’t you blame Warabis-dono ... ? Warabis-dono was the one who angered them to begin with and the 2 of them did not tell Smic-dono to eat the cooking made with Object X right?”

“ They did not say? ... In fact, it felt like they wanted to stop me ... However, if that’s the case then I would not be able to rationalize what I’ve been doing all this time ...”

「Purification」

I applied purification magic and the smell ingrained into Smic-dono's body was removed. "It would be good if it is slightly more ventilated but are there anything in this room that would react to magic?"

"Eh? There aren't any such item."

I channelled magical power into purification magic at once and the smell was completely blown away.

"As expected of Luciel-sa, -dono. The smell is completely removed."

Jasuan-dono joyfully said but I glared at him for a brief moment and his face turned blue.

He had an expression that appealed to pardon him from Object X.

He seemed to be reflecting so I talked to Smic-dono.

"Regardless of your motivation, Smic-dono have been constantly formulating medicine. That should be a work that is more laborious and difficult than chanting magic. I can see that by looking at you."

"... Luciel-dono."

"Also, thinking about it normally, it would be impossible to force Garba-san and Grulga-san to drink that. It would definitely end up with Smic-dono drinking it yourself."

I gently warned Smic-dono who's breathing was gradually becoming quicker.

"It's alright. Smic-dono realized it before you made a bad decision. Moreover, the time Smic-dono spent in formulating and tweaking dosage will definitely not be in vain. That skill can help a lot of people in the future so let us work hard together."

"....."

He said a soft "Yes." that only I could hear.

Then, after Smic-dono settled down, he once again requested Jasuan-dono for mandrakes.

"With mandrakes, I should be able to create high class potions that can recover injuries and magical power at the same time."

I looked at Lionel and Cathy and they both nodded so it seems like they judged that it was alright.

"If so, then here."

I took out the mandrake that Kefin plucked from my magic bag.

"This, this is?"

"A mandrake that have not cried past an hour. I'm passing it to you as a sign of us making acquaintance."

“What!!”

“Please properly listen to the matter regarding the healing district from now on.”

“Yes. However, please let me compound this first. Let me meet again soon.”

He held the mandrake I passed to him with an excited expression and disappeared into the back.

We all had a bitter smile as we looked at that and decided that there was nothing to achieve here now so we left.

I don't know if there was hostile gazes when we came out from the basement but I felt that Cathy laughed.

Thus, the conversation with Smic-dono ended with a good harvest and I set my mind toward the material procurement tomorrow.

Chapter 94

Moving the Hacchi race

Departing after we had our breakfast, we arrived at the undeveloped forest.

“Fornoir, could you go in?”

I imagined a door and channeled magical power into the Key of the Hermit before turning the key.

A door appeared on the spot and a stable could be seen within it.

As to be expected, I was surprised when I tried using it yesterday.

Apparently, the lesser demons designed various rooms to alleviate stress, it was equipped with rooms for meals, sleep and even massage rooms after exercises.

In the beginning, Fornoir and the other horses were startled but after they found that there wasn't any problem entering the door, they gradually began to relax.

However, only Fornoir hated entering this stable.

And as expected, it refused this time as well.

“... If that's the case then I have no choice but to have you come along with me this time, do you swear to not move around on your own?”

Fornoir nodded.

“That's a smart horse.”

“Maybe it's a subspecies of a battle horse nya.”

Lionel was impressed while the instant Cathy said those words, Fornoir raised its front legs toward Cathy.

“Calm down Fornoir. Cathy, apologize for treating Fornoir as a monster.”

I was truly flustered.

Fornoir hated being treated as a monster.

A normal horse would not have such a reaction.

However, Fornoir abnormally dislikes such things.

“I meant no offense nya. Please forgive me nya.”

“Burururuu.”

Cathy lowered her head and it looked like it forgave her while saying something like “It can’t be helped!”.

Something similar might happen in the future so I better tell them in advance.

“There might be some who are discontent about me bringing Fornoir along but her ability to scout is quite excellent. It has been proven when I came from Ienith. She’ll definitely not be in the way so don’t worry.” *(TL: Oh finally the author says that Fornoir is a female.)*

『Yes!』

There weren’t any objections but I felt that they only did not voice it out.

I conveyed my trust toward Fornoir quietly and entered the forest.

The line-up for the members that came to the undeveloped forest was the same as the previous time, with the addition of Haniru-dono from the Hacchi tribe.

I was quite lost as to bring Milfeene and the elves along or not but Cathy strongly wished to bring them along and Lionel shouldered the responsibility so I allowed them to accompany us.

Firstly, under Haniru-dono’s guidance, we headed for the Hacchi tribe’s settlement.

“There’s a need for me to give my report so please wait a moment.”

Looking at Haniru-dono and his retinues fly off toward the nest in the air, I spoke to Milfeene and the others.”

“I’ll guide you to the forest ... Was it Leshy? Did it appear this time? And did you hear the spirit’s voice?”

“There has not been any voices from Leshy or Spirit-sama this time.”

Rician replied as a representative.

She and Crecia insisted that they do not want their slave crest to be dispelled so they offered to monitor Milfeene, the fairies, and the spirit this time.

I told them to do as they wish.

“Okay. Let me know if anything happens”

This time, the formation was split into 3 groups.

Me, Lionel, Cathy, Haniru-dono, Dolan, and Milfeene were the transplanting squad.

Paula, Rician, and Yarubo squad were the material procurement squad.

Kefin squad and Crecia were the scouting squad.

To be honest, the matter about procuring magic stones was on my mind but I chose to go back to my roots and move with survival as the highest priority.

Blunders would happen if everything is hurried.

There was even a proverb for it so it would be best to proceed each step in order.

“Philosopher-sama, I’ve obtained permission. Today, after choosing the trees to transplant, we wish to move 30 percent of the colony, 40 individuals, is that alright?”

Haniru-dono reported delightedly but there wasn’t any talk about the number of individuals so they decided on it themselves.

“There isn’t any problem regarding the number but as I mentioned before, it isn’t safe?”

“Yes I understand. We wish to have approval to construct the nest in the underground below the Healer’s Guild.”

That was my original plan all along and I intended to tell them that but where would they have built the nest if I refused?

“There’s no problem as long as it doesn’t impair the profits. The increase in population was already expected so be at ease and move. However, please properly convey to them that it would not be an environment in which they would be able to frequently return home.”

It’s imperative that I furnish an environment that can ensure their safety but I still have not decided on how to establish that.

Hopefully, all the Hacchi tribe would want to move.

But I understand that that is impossible.

The ones who will head for Ienith from this forest would only be the relatively younger generation.

Among the individuals that were born and grew up in this forest, many of them wish to remain living here.

While feeling the responsibility of taking along the younger generation, I motivated myself to definitely make it a success and we resumed our activities.

The Hacchi tribe chose the tree, Milfeene talked to the trees, Dolan dug the soil and I collected them into the magic bag.

If Fornoir reacted to something, Kefin squad would move out and either Cathy or Lionel would accompany them.

Fornoir's scouting ability was proven and everyone admitted that it was excellent.

Nothing particularly eventful happened apart from that, although I felt slightly letdown, we completed our objective of harvesting the fruit trees and flowers.

"Well then, even though it might be slightly cramped, could the Hacchi tribe please ride in the carriage."

I had the Hacchi tribe ride in the carriage and we departed for Ienith.

After coming to an agreement to the sale and purchase of produce and food, there wasn't any problem with the Hacchi tribe that came along.

However, I was told various insects would approach the sweet honey, even though they are one as well.

A voice called out from my side when such a fatherly gag was going through my mind.

"This time, it is still before evening so I don't feel any gazes nya."

"It would be good if this situation continued for long."

"So, what do you intend to do tomorrow?"

“I intend to acquire magic stones from tomorrow onward so we’ll dive into the labyrinth. For the time being, I plan to use half a day but in case the labyrinth was conquered and the number of monsters decreased, we’ll stay over in the labyrinth.”

“That’s great. Then I’ll have to remember to tell Naria to prepare the food.”

“This time, there’s a map so it would be great if Luciel-sama tries fighting as well nya.”

“If such a situation arises.”

We had that conversation on the way back to Ienith.

I thought of the water spirit that nobody mentioned.

I recalled that when we previously came to the undeveloped forest, it said that originally I would not be able to come here.

This time, we did not come into contact with it and it might be that it is difficult to encounter it, but in the end, without finding any answers, I arrived at Ienith.

We moved with the carriage directly to the underground 1st floor.

With this, the fact that we brought the Hacchi tribe along should not be discovered immediately.

“Thank you for enduring the journey, everyone from the Hacchi tribe. This is currently the underground 1st floor but we would be moving to the underground 3rd floor now so could you all please follow me?”

The Hacchi tribe was shocked at the sudden sight of a sky underground and there were some who were suspecting if they were fooled.

“Everyone would be even more shocked when you reach the underground 3rd floor.”

Thanks to Haniru-dono’s words, they somehow followed my lead.

“This will be everyone’s workplace and living quarters.”

I said after leading them to the underground 3rd floor.

Each and every one of them had a dazed look.

I guess it’s normal to have such a reaction to a pseudo-sun underground together with fields.

“From now on, we will transplant the fruit trees and sow the seeds in the fields according to a planned schedule so let us all work together to create an environment that everyone can work at ease.”

The Hacchi tribe members were united in imagining how they would transplant the fruit trees from then on to create their own oasis.

Then, with my nickname remaining as Philosopher-sama, they all opened their mouths and spoke with one voice.

『Philosopher-sama, please take care of the Hacchi tribe.』

“Yes. Let’s work hard.”

With a relaxed mood, we began transplanting.

Dolan transplanted the trees while Milfeene applied spirit magic to the trees to maintain their state.

A large amount of soil from the forest was placed in the magic bag as well so the tree transplantation went smoothly and Dolan returned to his own workshop.

“... Even though Dolan did such a splendid work, his motivation would not rise with such a small amount of magic stones.”

70 percent of the magic stones we acquired from the monsters we defeated in the undeveloped forest today was given to Dolan but I’m sure Dolan would not be satisfied with an amount of magic stones that did not reach 3 digits.

“Grandfather’s mood is good when he goes to his workshop without saying a word.”

Paula reacted to my mutterings but looks like she was unsatisfied instead.

“Too many of the things that Paula and Rician want to develop are too exaggerated. First, think of items that are convenient for everyone.”

“I understand.”

Rician suddenly appeared behind me and left with Paula to her workshop.

“Those 2 seem to have a good friendship going.”

While watching the rejoicing Hacci tribe, I thought of the plan to acquire the magic stones that we would need in the future from the labyrinth tomorrow.

The next day, I headed for the Labyrinth of Astray that the Flame Dragon was in, but there was when I first came into contact with the shadow of the Evil God.

Chapter 95

Abnormal changes to the Labyrinth of Astray

Yesterday after dinner, I signed employment contracts with all the members from the Hacchi tribes.

This time, instead of relying on verbal exchanges, we exchanged written pledges.

Number 1, regarding salary.

Lodgings and 3 meals are guaranteed, wages will follow the decision of the tribe leader.

Number 2, regarding going out.

Do not go out without permission. To always inform during emergency cases.

Number 3, regarding off-days.

You will be given a day of holiday once a week. However, until the internal affairs are settled, it is forbidden to go out.

Number 4, others.

To not incite problems even though the workplace would involve various other races.

I'll first employ them for half a year, if the honey production business makes progress, I would change them to full employment.

There weren't any complaints about the contract.

They would immediately begin work from today onward.

Currently, I was heading toward the labyrinth to secure magic stones.

The members were Lionel, Cathy, Kefin squad, and Yarubo squad.

“Kefin, even though I granted permission last night, why is it that your squad came today instead of Baderu squad?”

They always rotated turns to escort me but he asked if it was alright to follow today and I allowed it.

However, since I was considerably free during the journey to the Labyrinth of Astray, I asked Kefin for the reason why they substituted.

“To be honest, a couple of people from Baderu squad are attracted to the slaves being taught by Naria-san so they asked me to let them protect the Healer’s Guild if possible.”

“Love affair huh~ ... It’s good to be young~. However, such feelings are important after all~...”

“Luciel-sama you sound like an old man nya. Luciel-sama should still only be 20 years old nya.”

“Although it’s somewhat too early for him to seem so mature, I heard that a lot of the church staffs are like that as well.”

When I spoke like an old man, Cathy tsukkomied me while Lionel lumped all the church staffs together.

I certainly read that if I stopped drinking Object X coupled with my job, I would begin aging faster ... Should I start drinking Object X again?

But before that, I should reply to the tsukkomi, right?

But, before I could deny it, the labyrinth came into view.

“ ... What bad timing.”

I muttered.

Arriving at the labyrinth, I used the Key of the Hermit and had the horses and Fornoir as well enter the stables.

It might be better to explain the dangers of the labyrinth.

I decided to have a talk before entering the labyrinth.

“ ... We’ll ascend at one go to the original point on the map as the previous time. I think the monsters would have decreased but please advance while remaining cautious.” *(TL: He didn’t remove the central magic stone of the labyrinth so I don’t know why he thinks that the labyrinth should have fewer monsters :/)*

『Yes!』

We entered the Labyrinth of Astray.

“... Is it only me that thinks that the monster numbers haven't decreased at all?”

Lionel and the others answered my question.

“No, there are more compared to the last time.”

“The numbers increased but the monsters that appear have only changed a slight bit nya.”

“Isn't that slight bit a problem?”

The instant we entered the labyrinth, compared to before when I was following along the search party, this time, many monsters appeared from the first floor.

“Usually once a labyrinth is conquered, it's activity would weaken right?”

However, there wasn't anyone with the knowledge to answer such a question.

This time, there were undead parts mixed within the monsters that appeared so I purified them as I remembered unpleasant memories.

I had no idea what the heck was happening but I began anticipating that we would be able to obtain our goal for the magic stones within a day with these numbers.

We proceeded on the first floor according to the map. It felt like it took roughly about 5 minutes.

All the member could easily fight monsters of this caliber while progressing.

The monsters have changed but thankfully the labyrinth paths did not change and there wasn't any problem ascending up the floors.

We repeatedly battled and collected magic stones and after about 1 hour we arrived at the 10th floor.

“Although I think we won't have any trouble, proceed with safety in mind.”

Everyone smiled at my insistence to prioritize safety and nodded.

2 Red Lizardmen and 1 undead Red Lizardman appeared in the boss room.

I immediately used purification magic to purify the undead Red Lizard while Kefin squad and Yarubo squad attacked with full force and defeated the other 2 with the same speed.

“As expected, your 2 squads have been training yourselves.”

As I praised Kefin squad and Yarubo squad, Lionel and Cathy both looked slightly dissatisfied.

I did not feel the need to make the effort to ask them since I judged that they most likely wanted to fight after all, so I ascended the stairs after I praised Kefin and the others.

“... For some reason, isn't the number of undead increasing as we go up?”

“It seems that way. However, their speed decreases after they turn into undead so it seems like a good place for Luciel-sama to gain combat experience.”

“I've been doing my best but I haven't even raised a single level since entering the labyrinth?”

“Since you defeated the Red Dragon, obviously the monsters around here would not level you up nya.”

It seems like it would not be easy to level up from now on, should I drink Object X?

No, if I pile up the specks I should be able to hear the level up slogan.

Both thoughts were antagonistic.

The 20th-floor boss was 2 Red Orcs and a larger Fire Wolf but I didn't have a chance to step forward.

Lionel slashed the Red Orc, Cathy decapitated the Fire Wolf, and Kefin squad and Yarubo squad's 14 member consecutive attacks gradually piled damage and defeated the remaining monster.

“There should have been an easier way to defeat it right?”

I believe that each of them definitely have the ability to defeat a Red Orc alone.

They are stronger than me so I do wish that that's true ...

“We were confirming our cooperation. Since the monsters would gradually become stronger from now on, we would hate to be a burden like before.”

Kefin said and all the other members nodded.

“There's no problem if that's the case. Since its safety first.”

I smiled and further aimed for a higher floor.

“Despite all that, it’s commendable that you have the motivation to continue climbing further up.”

Lionel asked as he was climbing up the stairs to the 25th floor.

“Even though I would hate to enter the labyrinth alone, I can rely on a certain battle maniac here. Moreover, if there are more magic stones from stronger monsters, the number of magic stones we require would decrease right?”

I joked as we climbed up the stairs.

A Fire Bear and Wraith appeared in the 30th-floor boss room.

I reflexively triggered purification magic the instant I saw the Wraith.

The Wraith looked like it was melting and it turned into a magic stone.

I checked if there were any members with abnormal conditions but it was alright this time.

Several people from Kefin squad suffered minor damage from the Fire Bear but it was to the extent that it can be said to be a complete victory.

Then, we took a lunch break there.

“That monster just now was definitely a Wraith. I remember Jasuan-dono said that the 40th floor boss for this labyrinth was a Chimera right?”

“He did say that nya. Leaving that aside, Luciel-sama is too amazing to be able to easily annihilate a Wraith like that nya.”

“That certainly was amazing. As expected of one who climbed up the ranks to an S-rank healer at that young age.”

“... Wraiths are small fries to me. Since the abnormal condition magic that the Wraiths release is totally ineffective towards me ... However I was close to dying once.”

“Why nya?”

“I would have been fine alone, but my companions around me suffered from the confused condition so I suffered attacks from them. Even if the Wraith was defeated, the confused state would continue so I could not stop my companions until I applied 「Recover」 on them.”

“I see. So that’s why you triggered your magic so quickly.”

Lionel touched his beard as he thought.

“Naria went through great pains to make the food this time so let’s eat.”

After I took out the food from the magic bag, I remembered that I forgot to apply purification magic to the room so I ordered them to begin eating first as I begin purifying the room.

Not a single person died among the people I dived into the Labyrinth of Tribulations with, none of the Holy Paladins or Priest Knights quit as well but

I shook off my feelings that were becoming gloomier and went to eat my delicious lunch.

For some reason, no undead appeared from the 31st floor.

I felt a touch of uncertainty about this labyrinth but we reached the 40th floor without encountering any bitter battles.

Then, Kefin spoke.

“That’s weird, they’re not around.”

“They?”

“S-rank ... Luciel-sama, previously, there were adventurers who made this point their base. They were sweepers that hunted adventurers but it’s weird that they are not here!”

Kefin was slightly agitated and Lionel admonished him. He gradually calmed down.

Seeing Kefin act like that, I had a very bad premonition.

An active labyrinth that was supposed to have calmed down and undead monsters that should not appear.

Adventurers called sweepers that hunt adventurers that should originally be here but are not.

“Do you all remember that I said that I did not take the large magic stone on the 51st-floor?”

Everyone nodded.

“It’s possible that the sweepers touched that magic stone.”

“But I don’t think they possess any blessings.”

“The Flame Dragon said that I could only enter the 51st floor once. If that’s the case, then it would not be weird if the magic stone was transferred to the 50th-floor boss room.”

“ ... Then you mean ...”

“There’s a high chance that the sweepers took that magic stone, but my instincts or my luck told me that I must never take that so I did not take it.”

... Going with the flow of the story, it would either be a new enemy or in the worst case, the Evil God would reveal its hand.

Here, I was forced to choose between the 2, to proceed or to turn back.

Chapter 96

Shadow of the Evil God

Everybody's gaze gathered on me.

They'll most likely obey any choice I make ...

If it follows the report then a Chimera should be in this boss room. However, this time, there is a possibility that there would be undead hidden within as well.

I absolutely do not want to head towards the jaws of death and neither do I want to order everyone to go towards it as well.

“ ... I expect a Chimera to be inside. There's also the possibility of a Wraith as well ...”

I couldn't come to a decision so I asked for everyone's advice.

Ultimately, I will not force the responsibility onto anybody else, but I could not bring myself to gamble their lives or impose my will on them.

“I believe normally you would have withdrawn here but ... is there anything that you are hung up on?”

Lionel looked at me with an earnest gaze and looked like he was trying to anticipate my thoughts.

“The truth is, I want to go back ... but, I have a feeling that ... if we leave the labyrinth in this state, the labyrinth might grow even more impregnable and the monsters would become stronger. I can't say this for certain without entering and taking a look but that's the kind of feeling I have right now ... that's all.”

“Then, let's proceed nya.”

“If Luciel-sama thinks so then we can only follow.”

“Luciel-sama, please make your decision based on your intuition. Even if you give the decision to withdraw, none of us would be troubled.”

Cathy chose to proceed, Kefin and the other will follow my decision while Lionel used words that he would normally never use. *(TL: Remember, Lionel is a battle maniac so he will never want to willingly withdraw hahaha)*

“ ... We'll immediately retreat if I believe it is dangerous. We'll force the door ajar using a log. Immediately inform me if you suffer from abnormal states due to attacks from the Chimera or even if you suspect it.”

『Yes!』

Thus, I decided to proceed.

The moment we opened the door to the 40th-floor boss room and entered, I took out a log from the stock of logs in my magic bag and used it as a stopper such that the door would not close.

“Let's go.”

The instant we moved toward the center, the dimly lit room brightened, I was prepared to cast purification magic the instant undead appeared but only 5 Fire Sabre-toothed Tigers were reflected in my eyes.

It was slightly anticlimactic but one tiger was my limit with my ability.

Of course, instead of defeating it, I waited for Lionel and the others to come to my rescue. However.

Unlike the previous time, Dolan, Paula, and Baderu squad weren't here.

Due to that, the Fire Sabre-toothed Tiger captured in my eyes opened its mouth widely and came flying towards me. I was caught off guard and my mind was in chaos, maybe it was by instinct but before I knew it, I had taken out the Holy Dragon Spear from my magic bag.

Thanks to my instinctual act, the Holy Dragon Spear skewered the center of the mouth of the Fire Sabre-toothed Tiger.

The Fire Sabre-toothed Tiger's movements only completely stopped when there was only 30cm distance between me and the Fire Sabre-toothed Tiger.

I was extremely frightened at the thought that the outcome would have been different if I was but a second late, but since it deliberately opened its mouth and flew toward me, I had a feeling ... that I was under the continued protection of Great Luck-sensei.

After confirming that the Fire Sabre-toothed Tiger turned into a magic stone, I turned my sight to the other battles and Cathy and Lionel had already finished their battles. Kefin squad was still in combat but they were on the offensive and were on the cusp of concluding it.

“To have defeated it alone, as expected of a Dragon Slayer nya.”

“He has already completely exceeded the realm of a healer.”

The 2 of them grinned as they returned as my escort.

“You’ve beaten me black and blue every day so you should know my ability.”

“If it’s no holds barred, I think Luciel-sama is already decently strong nya.”

“Actual combat is the inherent strength of a person. If you diligently persevere for another 10 years, it would become pretty interesting.”

I did not ask what aspect would become interesting.

Because some would say that that’s called a flag ...

“Yes yes. Nevertheless, considering that no undead appeared after the 31st floor, do you think that the labyrinth is rapidly recovering its strength or that it is remaking itself ...”

The smiles on the faces of the 2 of them disappeared after listening to my words.

The 2 of them were definitely thinking about the same thing.

“Then, how should we proceed?”

“As our original plan, we will recover magic stones ... and after seeing the 50th-floor boss, decide to return using the magic circle or return by walking back.”

“Understood nya. Ah, the battle there should be ending soon nya.”

During our conversation, Kefin squad made full use of their cooperation in numbers to draw the fight to a conclusion.

“Compared to some time back, their battle outcome was completely certain.”

“They’ve been diligently doing what they can so the result of that is starting to show nya.”

The 2 of them looked like they felt the growth of Kefin squad.

“ ... To diligently do what I can huh.”

As I posed those words to myself, I conveyed to them that we were ascending further up.

I first healed the injuries of Kefin squad and we had a brief rest before we ascended the stairs.

The undead did not appear after the 41st floor as well.

The number of monsters was slightly more compared to the previous time but because we had already completed the map, we did not need to spread our forces thin and we advanced via the shortest route.

We arrived in front of the 50th-floor boss room without experiencing any difficult battles at all.

It was 5 hours after we departed from the 40th-floor boss room.

“ ... So ominous nya.”

“ ... It’s a lot more concentrated compared to the previous time we were here.”

“To have miasma leaking out in such concentrations until it is visible means that I can begin purifying from here?”

“Yeah.”

I took out the food for dinner and left it to Kefin squad to do the remaining preparations while I chanted purification magic with a mental image of the interior of the boss room.

After chanting purification magic countless times, I proceeded to draw a mental image of the interior of the boss room to install a magic circle chant to trigger 「Sanctuary Circle」 and 「Purification」, and the miasma emission ceased.

“Today I’ll continue to use 「Purification」 here and we’ll take a peek into the boss room tomorrow. If the Red Dragon appears, this time, there are no guarantees that I would be able to win.”

“Well then, after our dinner, we’ll trouble Luciel-sama to purify the boss room. If you can place Object X here, Cathy and I will bring Kefin and the others to collect magic stones.”

“Okay. I’ll go have some sleep when I have 20% magical power remaining. Everyone don’t push yourselves too hard and substitute each other so that you can sleep earlier. Since tomorrow might be even more hectic than today.”

『Yes!』

After placing Object X at the passage to seal the entry of monsters, I draw an image of cleanly purifying the boss room and began chanting.

Cathy and Kefin squad went to sleep while Lionel and Yarubo squad went to defeat monsters.

I touched the door to the boss room with my hand while meditating, hoping that the purification would penetrate into the door and continued to activate my magic.

Then, I unintentionally noticed something.

In the past, I always used magic while maintaining an image but now I don't seem to do so anymore?

I further thought, was I beginning to have misconceptions because I was gradually getting more proficient?

I asked and answered myself and it certainly seems so.

My Holy attribute magic could reach such high levels because I could see my proficiency values.

Of course, I did put in the effort as well, but after having such thoughts, I laughed at myself as I considered that I'm not a skilled person after all.

When I departed from Ienith, I did decide to visit Meratoni once to retrain myself under Instructor Broad for a week.

"I still don't have the knack of commanding people even now. I've got to try even harder."

I murmured as my magical power reached 20% remaining and I took out the Angel Pillow from my magic bag before going to sleep.

When I woke up, there was no sign of Lionel and the others but Cathy and the lightly wounded Kefin squad was around.

"Sorry for only waking up now. I'll heal you guys with 「Area Heal」 so gather around."

After applying 「Area Heal」, I took the chance to reapply 「Area Barrier」 again as well and confirmed with them the current situation.

"How long has it been since I've slept and around when did you guys return?"

"We switched after 3 hours and now Lionel and the others are out for their second round."

“If that’s the case, then I’ve slept for about 5 hours. Are there any changes to the labyrinth?”

“Nope nya. Although I feel that the number of monsters is slightly higher nya.”

It means the labyrinth is slightly increasing in activity after all ... taking into consideration that undead did not appear since the 31st floor, it would be bad if it continues to further increase in activity.

“Okay. Then you guys can have some sleep. Or are you guys hungry and would like something to eat?”

None of them gave any objection to having food.

“I’ll wake you guys up when Lionel and the others return so it’s alright if everyone go have some sleep.”

My magical power had completely recovered so I continued to apply purification until I had 80% left.

As I was purifying, I heard the sounds of a sword fight.

I was closing my eyes while I applied purification so was it Lionel and the others? I pondered but if that’s the case then they would be fighting each other ... I anxiously opened my eyes to see Lionel and the others obediently return.

As expected, they suffered from light wounds except for Lionel so I used 「Area Heal」 to heal them before asking about the sound of sword fighting just now.

“I heard sounds of sword fighting just now, are you guys alright?”

“Ha? We didn’t hear any such sound though?”

Lionel had a confused expression.

Perhaps the sound of sword fighting came from within the boss room?

If that’s the case, then the only thing I could think of was that there might be a new floor boss similar to the Specter Knight.

“Lionel, how many magic stones did you all collect?”

“If we count in those collected by Cathy and the others as well, we have about 200 of them.”

We had acquired roughly 1000 magic stones when we reached here.

Adding in these 200, we have collected 60% of the magic stones we currently need. There might not have been a need to worry about procuring it.

“We’ll open the door to the boss room 6 hours later. If we observe the inside and it looks impossible, we’ll retreat and toss it to the Adventurer’s Guild. I’ve decided to not be reckless. Please stop me if my judgement is wrong.”

“Yes. I will absolutely protect Luciel-sama’s life.”

I patted the shoulder of Lionel who was acting strange and told him to get some sleep.

I did not wake everyone until they woke up themselves to let them recover their stamina. After breakfast, I told all the members the same words I said to Lionel and I opened the door to the boss room.

The sweeper adventurers were present but

“They’re turning into undead nya.”

There weren’t any monsters like the Red Dragon.

However, what bugged me was that the magic circle wasn’t present as well.

“S-rank healer~! Save me~”

It would be an understatement to call them departed souls, their pale white expressions with flashing red eyes reminded me of the Specter Knights in the Labyrinth of Tribulations.”

Then, I heard bellowing voices.

“Those are no longer human! Luciel-sama, the only choices are to either purify them or to cut them down.”

“Miasma is being emitted from their bodies nya, they’re already monsters nya.”

After Lionel said that, he shortened the distance to the sweeper adventurers as if telling them to not approach me and everyone else also followed suit and closed the distance.

My body was trembling. If I used purification magic here and they died then wouldn’t it equate me to a murderer? Just that thought caused my body to tremble and made me nauseous.

“Aren’t you an S-rank healer? Help me!”

“Gyahahahaha. Kill, Kill, Kill.”

“Die~ die!”

“To use us as a sacrifice, unforgivable, Jasuan, S-rank healer.”

“Our bodies would lose our soul.”

There were some deranged adventurers but I felt that they were alive and were conscious.

“ 「High Heal」 ”

I released 「High Heal」 at the nearest adventurer and that adventurer screamed.

“Gugyaaaaaaaaa!”

Listening to the same sound made by undead under healing magic, I apologized in my heart as I applied purification magic at full strength.

Because Lionel and Cathy were struggling and Kefin and the others were being forced into a corner in such a short period of time.

I gave up on interacting with them and prioritized the lives of myself and my companions.

The pale light drowned out the dark purple miasma, wrapping around the sweeper adventurers who gave out death throes before their figures turned into magic stones.

Within that, the man that Lionel was struggling against cried out something that violently shook me as he was disappearing.

“Unforgivable ... to be the sacrifice for the Evil God ... you bastards will become the Evil God’s sacrificial lambs as well ~”

It felt like his voice remained in my ears.

After their physical bodies disappeared, only magic stones and the sweeper adventurers’ cards and equipment remained.

“Do not touch the magic stones of the adventurers including the magic stone in the center!”

I ordered.

After everything disappeared, a large and beautiful magic stone appeared in the center but I judged that it was dangerous.

In addition, the magic stones converted from the adventurers were small but it felt like they had an alluring beauty that could not be compared with the other magic stones.

After collecting everything except the magic stones, I applied purification magic and 「Recover」 on all the members and also healing magic to the injured.

My body continued to tremble even when I was taking action.

Trembling at the thought of the Evil God that possess the power to seal the dragons and turn adventurers into undead.

That shivering did not subside even after we rode the magic circle that appeared after a brief moment and flew to the entrance of the labyrinth.

However, after basking in the sunlight, I felt my blood gradually circulate to my stiffened body and the trembling subsided.

Nobody mentioned about my trembling.

Fornoir who exited from the stables after I used the Key of the Hermit looked at my expression and directly bit my face.

“Ouch ouch ouch, Fornoir it hurts!”

“Bururu.”

Get a grip! I felt like she was trying to convey that.

After I was warned by Fornoir, I tried looking at everyone and they were looking at me, worried.

I have to pull myself together. Lionel did not address everyone because it was not his job but mine ...

I took a deep breath and switched gears, calling out to everyone.

Chapter 97

Removal of the Slums

After we exited from within the labyrinth and returned to the surface, we headed toward the Adventurer's Guild instead of heading back to the Healer's Guild.

I had Kefin and the others return first to take care of Fornoir and the horses as well as report that we have returned from the labyrinth.

As usual, upon entering the Adventurer's Guild, I informed the receptionist and was brought to the guildmaster's room.

“What can we do for you today?”

Jias-dono spoke before Jasuan-dono who was beside him so I gave a brief reply with what had transpired.

“The labyrinth was rapidly regaining strength ... or it might be easier to understand if I say that the labyrinth was in an activated state.”

“Wha!”

“And what's current situation?”

As Jias-dono was in shock, this time, it was Jasuan-dono who leaned forward to ask about the labyrinth in detail.

“I'll begin explaining from the conclusion, we once again conquered the labyrinth. However, I do not believe that everything was solved with just that.”

“Even though ... you've conquered the labyrinth once again?”

“ ... Firstly, within the activated labyrinth, in addition to the previously encountered monsters, there were new undead type monsters mixed within as well.”

“ ... Please continue.”

I placed the adventurer cards I got from the adventurers in the 50th-floor boss room on the table.

“They entered the 50th-floor boss room where the Red Dragon was ... and they were turned into undead.”

“ ... It doesn't look like this is some bad joke.”

“I wouldn't have come all the way here to report if it was. There was a large amount of miasma leaking out of the 50th-floor boss room. I fear that they fell prey to that.”

“ ... I've never heard of such a trap.”

“One of the undead adventurer cursed me and Jasuan-dono to become the sacrifices for the Evil God before I purified him.”

『Wha! Evil God!』

The 2 of them were surprised by the mention of the Evil God.

“Isn't there any way to calm the labyrinth?”

“I don't know. However, I was wondering if the large magic stone that appeared after we defeated the boss at the highest floor was the cause for the activation of the labyrinth.”

“You mean the dungeon core?”

“Yeah. That large magic stone can be called the nucleus of the labyrinth. It might be that this happened because they carelessly touched it. It's not something I am capable of handling so I came to the Adventurer's Guild to discuss with the 2 of you.”

“ ... So you came to give heads up?”

“Yes. Adventurers live by fighting so I cannot stop them. That’s why I leave it up to the discretion of you 2.”

For a short moment after I said that, the room was dominated by silence.

It was Jias-dono who broke the silence.

“ ... Thank you for the information. We cannot come up with an immediate answer for this incident. We might have to consult Luciel-sama when the time comes so thank you in advance.”

“Understood. Let us pray that the labyrinth will decrease in activity.”

“Yes. We will deliver it to the Healer’s Guild if we receive any information about changes to the labyrinth.”

To be honest, it was not a suggestion that I appreciate but I properly accepted it for now.

“Thank you. I look forward to working with you.”

Thus, the conversation regarding the activation of the labyrinth ended and we returned to the Healer’s Guild.

Underneath the Healer’s Guild, under Dolan’s guidance, Baderu squad was constructing prefabricated dwellings.

“This is?”

“The priest knights told me that they would suffice for security during the day so they lend them to me.”

“That’s good. I was feeling bad to have left it all to Dolan alone.”

“Don’t say that. It is boring to only construct the same thing but you do allow me to make that specific item.”

“ ... Don’t overwork yourself. There is a possibility that we would not be able to collect magic stones in the future so I hope that you will not waste any.”

“ ... I will handle it carefully.”

Later, after I checked on Dolan’s progress, I returned to the guildmaster’s room and contacted the Pope with the communication bead.

『I understand your point. I will investigate about the Evil God here as well. Also, I trust that you will send honey over once it can be produced in Ienith.』

“Of course.”

After cutting the communication, I sighed.

“To think that the Pope would mention honey every time, it might be a considerably rare good.”

Thinking about that, I began writing a letter to find out about the prices of honey and sugar.

After then, we explored the undeveloped forest and the Labyrinth of Astray every week.

While investigating the ecology of the undeveloped forest, we procured materials and searched for new types of monsters. Also, relieved that the labyrinth was beginning to calm down, I committed my strength in securing magic stones.

Then, in the blink of an eye, it was time for the monthly meeting.

“This time, I will be facilitating the meeting.”

Ririaldo-dono was the facilitator for this time’s meeting.

The meeting progressed smoothly without any particular problem.

“Next, would be the issue raised by Luciel-dono ... the problem about the wages. Forens-dono.”

“Due to the considerable disparity in wages between each race, races who exploited money by mixing in true and false reports were found. The increase or decrease in salary is still in discussion while the races that performed fraud will be asked to return the stolen money or will face sanctions.”

“Yo ... you will not disclose the races involved?”

“If this incident is leaked out to the public, it will cause great chaos. Which is why, I leave it to the representatives to either individually return the money or risk being shaved off from the next monthly meeting.”

Said Forens-dono.

This person, he might try to confuse you during business negotiations, but he would most likely never ever commit fraud.

He has a forcefulness that makes one feel that way.

“Th ... then next up would be the Healing District which would also be by Forens-dono.”

“Yes. Regarding the Healing District, the Tiger beastmen and Dragonewts have proposed to shave off some of their land as well as some of my Fox beastmen land and build it on the resulting vacant land. Discussion about employment will be done next.”

“Do you have any comments?”

Ririaldo-san looked at me and asked and I shook my head.

That’s because I heard of it from Forens-dono beforehand.

“Well then, this is regarding the question raised by Luciel-dono the previous time, about the rumors of the cliff to the west of Ienith. Souther-dono.”

“I apologize but we could not find the adventurer in question. We would like to continue investigating.”

“Any questions?”

I shook my head.

“Finally, regarding the progress of the slums district, Luciel-dono.”

Their gazes gathered on me.

Their eyes told me that they would immediately bite if I lied about the progress.

It was those kind of gazes.

I laughed and told them what could be said now.

“Yes. Currently, the progress rate is 30%. If the slum residents join the construction of the Healing District, we would be able to dismantle the slums in one go.”

“Even if you mention breaking the slums down, there isn’t any evidence of it happening.”

“Even if they are half-breeds, they are still precious residents of Ienith right?”

“I absolutely do not see any way we can establish relations with them.”

Well, I did expect dissatisfaction.

“I see. Please follow me out to the garden for a while.”

Nobody stopped my sudden move to exit to the garden and we exited the mansion.

“Currently, we are building the dwellings for the adventurers.”

I took out the building from my magic bag.

“This is the building prepared for the adventurers.”

I said and the representatives’ eyes were all wide in shock staring at the extracted building.

As might be expected, they did not think that such a huge item could be placed into the magic bag.

“We are currently constructing buildings similar to this as well as the school so I hope that the doubt is cleared.”

I smiled and there weren’t any complaints.

They may have wanted to pick on the newbie whose work had not progressed at all but people are weak towards visible results.

Even if there was only one house constructed, the stronger the impact at the time of revealing it, the more people will believe in it.

Until the next monthly meeting, what conditions should I employ the half-breed beastmen from the slums with?

Keeping in mind the possibility of receiving interference, intimidation or blackmail, I began formulating a strategy. *(TL: tl;dr. The pure-breeds discriminate against the half-breeds and the half-breeds end up staying in the slums. Luciel wants to help them and plans to hire them.)*

But, 2 months passed with nothing like that happening at all.

I heard from the boss of the slums district, Dollarstar-san, that they were properly receiving their wages and that unlike before, they have proper rest days as well so I was perplexed.

“It’s best to be careful. Times like this is the sign of something to come.”

“I understand. By the way, how is *that* proceeding along?” *(TL: Most likely the talk about relocating the slum residents)*

“It’s done. I finished all the preparations.”

“Okay. By the time you return today, the slums district would have disappeared.”

“... What’s this? I didn’t think that I would feel attached to such a place.”

“It is best to finely break down everything when you determine that the item is no longer needed.”

“I’ll entrust it to you. S-rank healer Luciel-sama.”

“Yes. I’ll do my best.”

Almost all of the slum district residents, including Dollarstar-san, moved toward the healing district.

The only people remaining were Kefin and the others who were guiding us, on this day, with Dolan’s earth manipulation, Paula’s 5 meter-class golem and my purification magic and magic bag, the slums district disappeared.

There were some among the slum district residents who broke down crying.

While almost all the non-slum district residents were stunned when they looked at the scene.

There were also many who feared me for executing the action determined within the representative meeting without hesitation.

The next day, the sight that made the eyes of the people who fear me jump out of their sockets was the sight of former slum residents beginning to live in their new houses with smiles on their faces.

Originally, I was supposed to have them stay underground for about 3 months.

However, there was a person who disputed that decision.

That person was Naria.

“It will take a considerably long time to change the populace’s impression once it has been sullied. If you do that, no matter how much planning you say you’re going to do after that, Luciel-sama’s bad reputation would be spread throughout the lands.”

“That might be so, but if we concern ourselves with that then wouldn’t the plan not work?”

“No, rather than spread bad rumors about Luciel-sama who rebuilt the slums district, there should be more races that want to become your ally and benefit as well.”

“But, then there might be people who are not convinced ...”

“There would be, I believe. However, Luciel-sama did not say a single word of lie right?”

“... Yeah.”

“Then it’s alright. This could only be achieved because it is Luciel-sama anyway. Even if there is a backlash, as long as there is an even greater benefit, people will want to become your ally.”

Naria gave a lonely expression at the end of it but it only stayed for a split second before she looked over and nodded. *(TL: Most likely it reminded her of the betrayal Lionel faced.)*

The next day, I was called to an urgent representatives meeting.

There, the 8 races were gathered and the barrage began.

“Luciel-dono, what is the meaning of that! Why are the slum residents living there!?”

Unusually, the first person to fire the shot was the dragonewt Jack-dono.

He is friendly to the fact that I am a strong individual and possess divine protection but he has a strong prejudice towards race.

“That’s right. Didn’t you say that you would remove the slums district?”

The next to speak was a tiger beastman but they should not have the right to speak in the first place, as expected, he still butted in.

“What are you thinking, to let half-breed beastmen live in such splendid buildings.”

Seemed like the dog beastman Sebec-dono could not bear with the fact that the half-breed beastmen were living in a better house than the one he was living in.

“Isn’t this a fraud! You said that it was to attract adventurers.”

The cat beastman Kyasral-dono was the same as Sebec-dono.

However, in his case, the words he said and the thoughts he had were reversed, he was appealing towards me for something but I could not understand.

“We would like to hear what were you thinking to do such a thing.”

The rabbit beastman Ririaldo-dono snorted.

There’s no helping it if he resents me when the fact that I have been making plans behind the scenes since I became a representative comes to light.

However, within that concentrated barrage, there were questions thrown in.

“Luciel-dono, can that be created so easily?”

“Perhaps, from my observation, you took the whole city into consideration?”

“ ... No way?! Is that why the bear beastmen are so spirited lately ...”

The questions came from the wolf beastman Olga-dono, the fox beastman Forens-dono and the bear beastman-loving Souther-dono.

I slowly raised my gripped right fist and spoke as I raised my index finger.

“Firstly, I promised to crush the slums district. I have crushed the dirty slums district and it has now become a beautiful cityscape.”

Looking at everyone, I raised my middle finger to form a peace sign and continued.

“Secondly, with relation to attracting adventurers, I attracted individuals from the slums district who possess the strength to become adventurers. Without the slums and with a place to live in with improved security, it should become even easier to attract more people.”

“That is just a play on words. Why did you give the likes of half-breed beastmen new homes.”

“That is a different topic. 2 months ago, didn’t I say that the half-breed beastmen are precious residents as well? From now on, I intend to make a splendid city that is easy to live in.”

I talked from beginning to end with a smile pasted on my face.

This time, I properly role-played the situation beforehand and thought of the content of several questions that would be asked so I was calm.

Then, Forens-dono spoke.

“Luciel-sama, was that the reason why you purchased the slums district?”

“No, it’s not. Or rather, it wasn’t, until you all were so uncooperative, so I did what I could within the scope that I was capable of.”

It looked like the opposing faction wanted to speak but Forens-dono made a move quicker.

The amazing aspect of him was his ability to make a profit and to make preliminary calculations, if it wasn’t profitable he could listen to the story well and make prompt decisions.

“ ... The school doesn’t seem to be complete yet?”

“That is currently under construction.”

“I see. I can hardly wait.”

As usual, Olga-dono's mind was totally filled with Shiela-chan.

“Why is it that you have a good relationship with the bear beastmen lately?”

“Their race have a low population and are tired. So I merely offered them treatment and food.”

Food by the name of honey.

“I see. Food huh ...”

Souther-dono was lost in thought with that and although the individuals who verbally attacked during the representative meeting were not convinced, since they could not think of a plan to improve it, the topic was left open.

This time, I must definitely prepare to face interference.

I thought about that as I was returning from the leaders mansion.

Chapter 98

Echoing roar in Ienith

The day after the representative meeting ended, the dog beastman Sebec-dono and cat beastman Kyasral-dono bowed their heads together.

“Even if you tell me that, I can’t do so immediately. I first have to construct the school so it will have to wait till after then.”

They came forward with a request to readjust their land and renew their buildings.

“Yeah. That is alright. Of course, we would not have you do it for free.”

“Races like ours are deemed as inferior races by the wolf and tiger beastmen but that is only applicable to combat.”

“The dog beastmen have a greater ability of concentration compared to the wolf beastmen and we absolutely keep our promises.”

“The cat beastmen are better at reading the atmosphere compared to the tiger beastmen and we are not a lazy race.”

“In the future, if Luciel-dono, no, Luciel-sama have any orders, we will stand by your side so we’ll be in your care from now on.”

“The cat beastmen will be in your care as well.”

“It’s alright to not attach -sama. Please wait for the time when we discuss if the previously mentioned topic will be attempted.”

After I said that, Sebec-dono’s tail was wagging and Kyasral-dono’s tail was standing at attention and slightly swaying when they left.

Seemed like they were delighted ...

“In the end, even though nothing was decided, they still went back.”

“Luciel-sama is quite a villain nya.”

Lionel and Cathy laughed while saying disrespectful words.

It’s not like I intentionally made them misunderstand, this time, the fault was not on me.

I'm open to negotiation but no agreement was said and even that would be a verbal agreement at best so it would be inconsequential.

"The priority now is to not be bound by anything we say. Cathy, what's the update to the task I assigned to you?"

"The horse, elephant, cow and monkey beastmen were all skeptical nya. Even so, I convinced them nya."

"That's great. Then, continue with the negotiations."

"Understood nya."

Cathy left the room.

Previously, I sent out letters to Instructor Broad, Garba-san, and Grulga-san and had multiple exchanges but it was written that if Garba-san moved it would become a reign of terror so I should weather through the incidents unless I am in the utmost pinch.

However, 4 copies of a letter were enclosed and it was written that if I deliver those to the races that were chased out of Ienith, they would most likely become my allies.

Under Cathy's guidance, Kefin and the others split up to meet up with the various races.

Somehow it looks like everything proceeded smoothly but just how much influence that man still possess in this country, I was too scared to ask and felt that it was better to not ask ...

"However, we just barely made it in time. We were in such a situation."

"Yeah. Although you still can't be careless, I believe the risk of your life being targeted has decreased slightly even if you go out."

The mental relief was great since we no longer had to be cautious of arrows from the centaurs.

"All that's left is if the honey could be produced smoothly ..."

"Haniru-dono said that it would be impossible to increase it any further."

"I see ... I received reports that it arrived at the Pope but I had no idea that its scarcity value was so high that a single cup of honey could be exchanged for gold."

"Looks like it is not something commoners could eat."

"I would never have imagined that it would be more expensive than sugar."

The Hacchi tribe was rare in the first place and it appears that they were worked as slaves in the past.

Isn't it the same now? I tried asking Haniru-dono but he replied with a smile.

"This environment where we won't be attacked by anyone, where we can collect plenty of honey in clear air, it is an absolute heaven to create offspring."

Apparently, the undeveloped forest rarely saw any adventurers entering so their enemies, the monsters, were so numerous that they could not nurture their young in peace.

Here, they could nurture their young and get permission to return to the undeveloped forest so currently there wasn't a single Hacchi tribe individual who held any dissatisfaction.

I was glad to hear that.

It was written along with the letter from Grulga-san about the demand for honey and the market price.

The 100ml worth of honey I passed to the bear beastman Brian previously would cost a gold coin at the very least.

"Nevertheless, we still have stock so when would you sell them?"

"Once we sell it there's a possibility that the Hacchi tribe would be targeted. I was thinking of doing so during the time we unload the fruits made in the underground 3rd floor into the market ..."

"... Forens-dono's expression when he saw the fruits was certainly dangerous."

"It was like that just with the fruits you know? If we unload the honey ... even thinking of it makes me fearful."

When I offered to share a portion of the profit from the underground produce with the merchant Forens-dono, he was so surprised that he was stunned and muttered.

"With products like these, you could regain your initial capital with just 3 years."

His eyes were terrifying to me and I didn't hear his mutterings but Cathy heard it.

While feeling that it would be bad to anger such a person, my various worries began.

"So when would you sell them?"

“ ... To be honest, I only know about the amount and nothing else so I would like to think about it slightly more ... once the school is completed it would most likely become busy as well ... changing to a different topic, talking about the school, I was thinking of having XXX become the school’s principal.”

“ XXX? I see. I also believe he/she is qualified.”

“Okay. Although there were many things to take into consideration, it’s great that it is gradually taking shape.”

“Yeah. When the healing district is complete, it would be about time your term as Ienith’s representative ends so isn’t it just right?”

Lionel seems quite happy.

I did tell Lionel that I would head to Meratoni once so he’s definitely looking forward to having a rematch with Instructor Broad.

“ ... So do you think we would be attacked?”

“I can’t give you a definite answer. Though, it wouldn’t be strange if the tiger beastmen themselves already made a move ...”

“Hah~ it only seems like they would make a move but they haven’t. What will happen during the expedition tomorrow to the forest?”

“We’ll pay careful attention.”

“Thank you.”

In reality, we were already in possession of lumber and magic stones such that we no longer need to go for material procurement.

But because of the 3 big spenders we have in relation to magic stones, the rate it decreased was amazingly fast.

However, it’s not like I gave them free reign to create anything they want, I had them create magic tools with the concept that it will be usable even by beastmen, if it turns out well then I’ll let them create one item that they like.

Those were actually a considerable hit in Ienith.

I was selling them to Forens-dono.

Because of that, Forens-dono returned to the usual smiling Forens-dono instead of the bloodshot eyes Forens-dono ...

The problems that occurred up until then were only the beginning and more problems would surface when we reveal ourselves later so I completely forgot about the existence of something I should have born in mind.

Then, that became a large problem.

That happened when another 3 months had passed and we were on the verge of beginning to assemble the school.

The sound of an explosion that resonated deep within as if a giant ball of fireworks were set off resounded throughout Ienith.

Looking toward the direction of the sound, I saw crimson flames and black smoke rise into the air.

“... That’s the healing district, right? Lionel, Cathy, come with me. Dolan and Paula will be on standby but move according to your own judgement. Kefin and others, the next target might be here or the Healer’s Guild. Please guard the locations depending on the situation.”

I ran off without hearing the replies.

The healing district was in simple terms something like a general hospital, a facility such that one can come and go easily between the Healer’s Guild and the Herbalist Guild.

It was currently under construction but close to completion so instead of only half-breed beastmen, various other beastmen were entering and exiting.

I could imagine that a considerable amount of people were caught in the explosion.

Furthermore, in my previous life, I heard that even without external injuries, in cases of fire, needless to say about external burns, but even internal burns would lead to respiratory failure or in the worst case, death if it is not treated well.

Currently, I am the only one who can help them.

Energy surged through my body with that thought.

Onlookers were blocking the road but I yelled out and passed through.

“Move it~!! You’re in the way of treatment~!”

In response to my voice, a path opened.

There, Lionel stood in front of me and Cathy was behind me in the usual formation.

When it became the usual formation, I noticed that I was getting flustered.

I took in a deep breath as I ran and saw that there were people with serious burns that were blown out of the building.

“Anybody around, tell me the place where the injured are! 「High Heal」.”

I properly healed the burns and scratches of the people blown out.

While thinking that it was great I could heal burns as well, I heard that among the half-breed beastmen working on the site, there should be 37 of them currently working.

I’ll definitely save them.

After I persuaded myself, I heard voices calling out one after the other.

I ran toward the sound and when I applied 「High Heal」 to individuals who were carbonized, they recovered.

I was on the verge of tears then but it would be meaningless if I did not save everyone so I switched gears and moved into action.

After I finished helping the injured outside the building, I decided to enter the building spewing out smoke and fire.

There are still some people inside ... it’s alright.

There’s a chance.

“Lionel, Cathy, let’s go.”

While thanking the 2 of them who stepped into the burning building without hesitation, I poured magic into my bracelet to trigger the wind barrier as soon as I entered the building.

“Sorry for being so unreasonable. Cathy, you’ve been here before right?”

“I remember it well nya. 5 floors have been constructed but the space between the 4th and 5th floor should be a wide empty space and I believe they were in the process of constructing the 3rd-floor nya. Ah, also there should be a basement.”

Having a basement means ...

“... We’ll begin from the very top.”

“Nya!?”

Lionel and Cathy looked like they were puzzled.

“Smoke and fire rise from bottom to top. The ones above are in danger. Please lead the way.”

I briefly explained and we ran up to the 5th floor.

“To have even blown off the ceiling, how intense was the explosion?”

I was dumbfounded when I noticed the ceiling of the 5th floor.

“He’s still alive nya.”

I reacted to Cathy’s voice and went to save the collapsed person.

The floor had good visibility and there were 3 collapsed people who were stiffened.

I immediately rushed to them and instantly applied 「High Heal」 and their wounds recovered but they did not regain consciousness.

“Hah~ Should we carry them on our shoulders?”

“No need.”

『Paan Paan Paan』, Under Lionel’s slaps, the consciousness of the 3 of them immediately flew back.

“Your burns have been treated. Immediately flee to the 1st floor. Can you run?”

The 3 of them could not make a sound under the glare of the greatsword-carrying Lionel but they nodded to my voice.

There wasn’t a partition between the 5th and 4th floor so I immediately saw the injured. I saved 5 people on the 4th floor.

“Are you 2 alright?”

“I haven’t breathed in any smoke so I’m fine nya.”

“It seems like the fire is on a lower floor.”

“Yeah. Even so, why is it burnt to such an extent?”

“It was a rushed job to quickly build it nya.”

“There most likely wasn’t any designs to make it fire-proof.”

“Even though I would have been flexible if they spoke to me.”

“They most likely didn’t want to owe you.”

Even though we were having such a conversation, our feet never stopped and we were rescuing people.

There was one person trapped under a fallen stone beam but Lionel broke the stone beam with his greatsword and I repaired his torn arm with 「Extra Heal」 .

I’ll heal them if they are alive. If I need heavy equipment I have Lionel.

In exchange for life-sign detectors, I have Cathy.

I rescued the injured while thinking it was reassuring to have them.

Thus, by the time we reached the 1st floor, the supports were already burnt through and the ceiling was collapsing but Lionel blew away everything that was not blocked by the wind barrier.

“Dollarstar-san and his followers are not here. Furthermore ... I’m worried about the various colours of smoke coming from the basement. Were the medicinal herbs from the Herbalist Guild carried over already?”

“I haven’t heard of that nya.”

“It’s hard to guess the cause of the fire but ...”

Lionel cut open the door to the basement and we entered into the stairs leading to the basement.

Without the wind barrier, our visibility would have been bad and the smell would have been substantially bad as well.

Sure enough, Dollarstar-san, his followers, and the Herbalist Guild guildmaster Smic-dono were there.

“ 「Area High Heal」 , 「Recover」 , 「Recover」 , 「Recover」 , 「Recover」 . Very well, let’s carry them out.”

The moment I said that, I thought I heard another loud sound of an explosion and the stairs to the first floor was obstructed.

“ ... As expected, it’s that pattern. For now, let’s extinguish the flames.”

“Understood.”

“Okay nya.”

While being painfully aware that life doesn’t go so smoothly, I gave out orders to Lionel and Cathy.

The 2 of them followed my instructions and extinguished the flames.

I used purification magic to remove the fallen dust and soot.

“Well, there’s still oxygen so we’ll somehow make it. Lionel, can you cut the ceiling?”

“As one would expect, that would be impossible.”

“Cathy as well?”

“That’s definitely beyond imagination nya. Luciel-sama, why aren’t you in a panic nya?”

Seems like it was strange that a person who is usually panicking like me was not in a panic.

“Because this is underground. If we do not return after some time, Dolan and Paula would come to save us with their golem, and if they don’t come, there’s a possibility we can escape by storing the rubble in the magic bag.”

“Was such a thing happening within your expectations?”

“Yeah. I thought of it when we entered underground. After this, if I rescue everyone and survive through a miracle, my fame would rise. With that, even if I’m not around, my factory would be safe. Furthermore, without me around, I believe the people who want to make a move would come out.”

“Luciel-sama is such a schemer nya.”

“That’s a very bold move you made.”

“Did you accumulate so much stress nya?”

The 2 of them looked over with surprised expressions but they knew the amount of irritation, the wearing of my nerves I had this half a year by being singled out.

I said my feelings to the 2 of them with a wry smile on their faces.

“The stress I have is to the extent of wanting to have them drinking a full barrel of undiluted Object X. Well then, shall we have tea?”

I smiled at the 2 of them and prepared tea as we waited for the 4 of them to wake up.

Chapter 99

Unexpected helper

As we were really having tea and chatting underground, the 4 people begin waking up.

“Oof, where? S-rank?” (Dollarstar)

“Ah, Dollarstar-san you’re awake? Thank god you survived.” (Luciel)

“Ah! Are those guys alright?” (Dollarstar)

“We rescued everyone. Thanks to that, we’re currently trapped underground but nobody’s life is in danger.” (Luciel)

“? ... So they’re fine ... thanks.” (Dollarstar)

Dollarstar-san began waking up his followers so I went to wake Smic-dono.

“Where am I pu~?”

Looking at Smic-san who ended his sentence with a pu~ maybe because he’s still half-asleep, I spoke out.

“Are you awake? This is within the healing district building.” (Luciel)

“ ... Why are you here?” (Smic)

Maybe he was awake now so he no longer added pu~ to his sentences.

“I heard an explosion coming from this building and I thought that there would be wounded so I came to help.” (Luciel)

“ ... I see, sorry.” (Smic)

Smic-dono apologized but I could not understand why he apologized.

“Why are you apologizing? I would understand if you thanked us but there isn’t any reason why Smic-dono should apologize?” (Luciel)

“ ” (Smic)

“ ... Dollarstar-san, what happened? It’s strange that these members are gathered here?” (Luciel)

Dollarstar-san looked at Smic-dono once before he began to talk.

“ ... An unusual odour leaked out to the first floor from the basement so we thought that it might be bad and came here to check.” (Dollarstar)

“I see, however, the explosion did not happen here right?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. The smoke here caused intense drowsiness and confusion so nobody would be able to stand here.” (Dollarstar)

“Drowsiness and confusion? But an amazing explosion happened? Since the 5th floor ceiling or in other words the roof was blown off.” (Luciel)

“What!?” (Dollarstar)

“You guys heard the sound of the explosion right?” (Luciel)

“No, I only vaguely heard cries and the sound of something bursting open.” (Dollarstar)
Just how strong was the smell down here?

“Smic-dono, you know something right?” (Luciel)

“ ... Yes. Warabis came.” (Smic)

“Warabis? ... Ah, Warabis-dono huh?” (Luciel)

Now that I think about it, I had completely forgotten about that racoon dog beastman.

“Yes. As if he knew that I was transferring medicine over here, he said he came over to help.” (Smic)

“By any chance?” (Luciel)

“ ... A change that would not occur during regular compounding happened. Because various powders were mixed ...” (Smic)

“However, it wasn’t something that would explode right?” (Luciel)

“ ” (Smic)

Smic-dono began sweating profusely and he further diverted his gaze as he added some more information.

“ ... When the smoke began forming, I tried to collect the valuable herbs in a hurry like the flame grass and others but many of them were gone. I didn’t notice when I was compounding ...” (Smic)

“Can such things cause an explosion so easily?” (Luciel)

“It wouldn’t explode. Although it would form something the size of a fireball upon contact with air ...” (Smic)

That’s most likely the trigger.

Did it set fire to the smoke? Or was it a dust explosion? No, the visibility was clear so the chances of that are low.

“ ... I don’t know the cause. Because it didn’t seem like Warabis-dono was in the building.” (Luciel)

“ ... Is that so.” (Smic)

I should not just suspect him.

But I will, of course, have him take responsibility for releasing the smoke.

“Was there anything else suspicious?” (Luciel)

“Lately the number of people working increased and various races mixed together but there’s no way all of us worked together so I don’t know.” (Smic)

“I see.”

If it was a drama, I would have been able to immediately make an educated guess as to who the criminal is.

“Are the things here all important items?” (Luciel)

“Yes. But there is stock within the Herbalist Guild as well.” (Smic)

“ ... But I can bring it with me? Do you really want to leave them here?” (Luciel)

“Please bring it along.” (Smic)

“Okay.”

I collected all the bottles and medicinal grass and Smic-dono lowered his head countless times.

“S-rank, how do we exit from here?” (Dollarstar)

“If you wish to exit we can immediately do so. Do you wish to leave?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. If the responsibility of the explosion is pushed onto us, we would not be able to hold against the masses.” (Dollarstar)

Ah, I forgot about the standing of the half-breed beastmen.

“Well, quite some time has passed so shall we make a move?” (Luciel)

I placed the broken logs and rubble at the staircase entrance into my magic bag.

To be safe, I had Lionel ready his large shield as I steadily collected.

There were sounds of exclamation from behind but there was no knowing when an avalanche of rubble would come down so I couldn't divert my attention.

I firmly watched the steps as we ascended up the stairs and I carefully retrieved the scrap materials.

Then, we reached the door that Lionel cut to enter the basement and it was replaced with a wall of rubble and it would have normally been impossible to leave under such a situation.

“It's really good that I brought my magic bag.”

When I placed the wall of rubble into my magic bag, within it was smoke and embers that were still smouldering. While thinking that I would have to inspect that as well, I frantically continued to move my hand, it took us about an hour before we escaped but we finally succeeded in escaping from the healing district building.

“The onlookers have greatly decreased huh.” (Luciel)

“Of course, looks like there was movement that made them worried.” (Lionel)

The onlookers that made it difficult to pass through them have now reached a number that I could count.

“Where should we go first nya?”

“Well of course, to the place that golem is at.” (Luciel)

I immediately replied to Cathy's question.

The reason was because, at the scheduled location for the school, I saw a 5-meter golem rampaging.

“Let's make those who picked a fight with us regret it. Dollarstar-san and guys, do you all have any idea of a place that half-breed beastmen would gather?” (Luciel)

“Usually, it would be in front of the leaders mansion.” (Dollarstar)

“Could you guys go over there first? Help me listen to what they say.” (Luciel)

“ ... Fu~ I’ll believe in you.” (Dollarstar)

“Yeah. Well then, I’ll have the 2 of you work.” (Luciel)

『Yes!』

We headed at full speed toward the school construction site and the dog beastmen, cat beastmen and dragonewts were there. I held my illusion cane and voiced out when I approached.

“What is happening here?” (Luciel)

Reflected in my sight was Paula struggling to manipulate the golem and Dolan holding on to his hammer, the 2 of them forming a defensive line around the wounded figures of Yarubo squad.

It was a situation that easily suggested that combat began.

“I’ll ask again, what the hell happened here!!”

After I shouted, the dragonewt tribe prostrated and began to beg for forgiveness.

“Fo, forgive us Luciel-do, -sama. This was decided during the emergency 8 race meeting.”

“Is the dragonewt tribe making excuses?”

“ ”

The roughly 30 dragonewt members were completely prostrating while facing my direction and kept their mouths closed.

The dog and cat beastmen trembled as I approached ... but I ignored them and passed by them to apply healing magic to Dolan and the others.

“But 2 hours haven’t even passed since we were caught up in the explosion?”

“These guys claimed that Luciel-sama died or Luciel-sama used the half-breed beastmen and caused an accident so they were here to confiscate this land.” (Dolan)

“Hou. Can I take that as a declaration of war against me, the S-rank healer of Saint Schull’s church?”

The individuals who heard that began trembling and was further frightened when the greatsword held by Lionel burst into flames and was clad in flames, they rapidly dropped their weapons.

“If you intend to begin fighting to the death, I’ll stand in for Luciel-sama.” (Lionel)

There were some among the dog and cat beastmen that could not stand straight due to fear of Lionel’s fighting spirit.

“He, hey, you’re a cat beastman right? Help ...” (Random cat beastman)

『Thud』 That sound was instantaneous, I think Cathy moved to the back of the man and struck his neck.

“I hate such unsightly people nya, I’ve remembered all the faces of the people here nya. Think about what you should be doing now, the people who move for Luciel-sama’s sake would have a much easier time later nya. First, save the half-breed beastmen nya.”

After Cathy said so, the beastmen looked at each other before grabbing their weapons and running toward the leaders mansion.

“Luciel-sama, please instruct us too.”

The dragonewts were still prostrating.

“Ah~ then, the real criminal who burnt the healing district building was the merchant who sawed wood there, catch those that are really responsible.” *(TL: So in summary the explosion was a saw dust explosion triggered by the herbs Warabis stole)*

『Yes!』

The dragonewts formed platoons and moved out.

“Dolan and others, good job defending the site. Nothing is here as of now anyway so we’ll walk toward the place the half-breed beastmen are currently and return to the Healer’s Guild.”

『Yes!』

Without rushing, we headed toward the dwellings of the half-breed beastmen and saw from afar that it seemed like it was lit ablaze.

“Everyone, check all the houses, I’ll heal them if they are alive!”

I slowly walked and surveyed the neighbourhood.

When I approached, I felt like the person was already dead, but I had a strange feeling telling me that I had to cast.

“ 「Extra Heal」 ”

The magic glow appeared but the person did not breathe in ... he did?

The light rapidly returned the cut up body to its original form.

“The life force of beastmen is amazing.” (Luciel)

Even though the person I helped was a stranger, I was brought to tears.

Lionel acted like he did not notice my tears.

The result of the search was only this half-breed beastman who’s back was slashed and I speculate that he was made an example of.

“The presence of bloodstains mean that a battle happened. Perhaps the worst-case scenario has happened?” (Luciel)

“What shall we do?” (Lionel)

“The people pulling the strings from behind the scenes are unforgivable. This time, I will not absolve the crimes of the accomplices as well.” (Luciel)

The rabbit, wolf, fox and bird beastmen had stormed in from the front of the Healer’s Guild.

Defending the guild was the enlarged bear beastmen with the Hacchi tribe riding on their shoulders as well as my Priest Knight subordinates.

The first to notice my presence were the bird beastmen who stopped flight and came down.

The next to notice were the bear beastmen and the Hacchi tribe.

The reason why they noticed was because they were protecting the Healer’s Guild.

I did not expect the bird beastmen to become our allies but that must have been because of the bear beastmen’s pheromones. *(TL: Wait what? I only know the bird beastman representative Souther likes the bear beastmen.)*

“Well then, could you please tell me why you all are storming the Healer’s Guild? Ririaldo-dono, Olga-dono, Forens-dono.”

Hearing my voice, all the beastmen including the 3 of them stopped.

“I’m asking you all what’s the meaning of this? Did you not hear me?” (Luciel)

“You’re alive.” (Olga)

Olga spoke.

“This is ...” (Olga)

The usually chirpy Forens was now acting somber.

“This was decided within the 8 races meeting. The half-breed beastmen that Luciel-dono gave preferential treatment to damaged the healing district. It was decided that the responsibility will be held by the leader Luciel-dono.” (Forens)

Isn’t that just shifting the responsibility? Oh well, it doesn’t matter either way.

“You guys did well to jam in a meeting in the mere 2 hours we were trapped within the fire. What’s the meaning of this? Ah, I see, everyone plotted against me and the Healer’s Guild. Hahaha.” *(TL: It’s impossible the leaders met and came to a decision within the time they were gone so the people pulling the strings behind the scene most likely decided to do this a long time ago. They were just waiting for the correct opportunity.)*

Forens rebuked as I was laughing in a daze.

“Why did you not discuss with us about the fact that you selfishly brought the Hacchi tribe into Ienith on your own?” (Forens)

“What’s the problem with that? They have not taken a single step out of the Healer’s Guild and have not caused any trouble?” (Luciel)

“That’s not true. You can gain an enormous profit by having them produce honey.” (Forens)

“So what? The people from the Hacchi tribe are my friends. Furthermore, this is my personal land and we have signed a contract stating that I have complete freedom in terms of profits. I believe that you, as a merchant, understand what that entails right?” (Luciel)

“

Forens was completely silent.

“The rabbit beastman Ririaldo-dono, not only are you corrupt, embezzling the money that the many races worked sweat and tears for, you even have the gall to pass the blame for the healing district that you all made. The eyes of the rabbit beastman I know are

excellent but your eyes are evidently cloudy.” (TL: *Most likely Cathy investigated and found out who embezzled the money?*)

“Wha, I don’t know what you’re talking about. Furthermore, we never had the intention of making the healing district in the first place. It was only because everyone was fussing over it merely because you became a dragon slayer.” (Ririaldo)

“I see. Can I take that as the collective opinion of all the rabbit beastmen?”

I looked around Ririaldo and the rabbit beastmen holding onto hoes were hiding in the back.

Because they were originally never an aggressive race, they desperately came forward and called out.

“I, I don’t want to die.”

“I only came because I was told to.”

“Ririaldo-san, did you lie to us?”

“Please forgive me.” (All 4 lines by random rabbit beastmen)

Despite acting this way now, they most likely just watched on as the half-breed beastman was slashed previously.

“Hah~ That’s enough. I’ll take it that only Ririaldo-dono thinks that way. However, as an S-rank healer of the Healer’s Guild, I will have you all that are complicit in this as well as the Ienith leaders receive corresponding punishment.” (Luciel)

They all drooped their shoulders and did not say a word.

“Olga-dono, at the very least, I had thought ... that you were my ally. Since you made your intent clear that you wanted to create the school for Sheila-chan’s sake. What’s the reason for the wolf beastmen?” (Luciel)

“... Sorry. This is also for the sake of the wolf beastmen.” (Olga)

“Can you proudly say that to Shiela-chan?”

“.....”

“So, what’s your decision? Will you choose to remain hostile?”

I do not think that he’s a bad person.

Olga held his sword with his other hand and closed his eyes before opening his mouth to speak.

“Gu ... It’s already to the point of “Luciel, don’t bully him so much. Olga’s going to go bald.”” (Olga) *(TL: He’s mimicking Shiela)*

“I guess. Well, with this, roughly all the races’ are accounted for.” (Luciel)

“Luciel, if you don’t smoothly handle the case slightly more with various other information, you won’t be able to stand above.” (Garba)

“Well, I’m glad that you did not change you straightforward personality.” (Grulga)

The 2 wolf beastmen who suddenly appeared laughed.

“Why are the 2 of you here?” (Luciel)

Was I hallucinating?

However, I knew that it was not a dream.

The 2 of them seemed delighted as they spoke to me.

“This is our hometown after all and we wanted to see Luciel’s confused look. Furthermore, it seems like we have to slightly roast some people.” (Grulga)

“I received a letter from Olga saying that it would soon be dangerous. Nevertheless, why is the War Ogre General here? And that’s Instantaneous Shadow?”(Garba) *(TL: Lol their Japanese nicknames are much much cooler, Sen’oni Shogun and Shun’ei. I’ll most likely use those instead.)*

He’s most likely talking about Lionel and Cathy.

I told them about their position.

“? I bought the 2 of them as slaves but they are now my trusted retinue.” (Lionel)

The 2 of them looked at each other and laughed.

Moreover, I somehow heard a laughing voice from behind Lionel and Cathy.

“Well, it doesn’t matter. Well then, Olga, are the fox beastmen there and the bird beastmen above enemies?” (Garba)

“You’re late! Shiela would drown in tears if you were a little later! In any case, you 2 were most likely searching for the mastermind anyway.” (Olga)

“Olga sure knows us well. We’ve already caught the mastermind.” (Garba)

“The fox beastman Forens was an ally until just now but he was only confused from seeing the Hacchi tribe so he’s an ally. The bird beastmen are allies because the bear beastmen are here.” (Olga)

“Well, it’s about time the half-breed beastmen gathered so let’s move to the meeting place of the representatives. Luciel-kun, I was extremely happy to hear that you were working hard to make Ienith a better place.” (Garba)

“Thank you.” (Grulga)

“But, the beastmen have many fetters so if you do not properly discipline them by standing above, they will treat you with contempt. I’ll teach you how to properly discipline them at the meeting place so remember it.” (Garba)

“Yes, Garba-san.” (Luciel)

“Luciel, I heard you got *that* from the Adventurer’s Guild?” (Grulga)

“Eh, yes. Are you going to use it?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. Since there are guys that I must feed my new cooking to.” (Grulga)

“Grulga-san’s food terror?” (Luciel)

“What a disrespectful thing to say. I seriously made it edible okay.” (Grulga)

“Isn’t that amazing! But, perhaps, they will faint immediately ... after eating it?” (Luciel)

“You’re the only person that can eat it normally. Let’s go.” (Grulga)

“Yes. But please wait a moment. Yarubo squad will be on standby here. Haniru-dono, Brian-dono, is anybody hurt?” (Luciel)

“We’re alright.” (Yarubo)

“We’re alright too.” (Brian)

It seems like the battle had not begun so there wasn’t anybody injured.

Thus, we once again began to walk together with Garba-san and Grulga-san toward the leaders mansion, toward the meeting place of the representatives.

After this, I finally saw the true strength of the wolf beastmen brothers that seized Ienith.

Chapter 100

Mastermind and Perpetrators

As soon as we began moving toward the representative meeting point, somebody spoke to me.

“Do you mind if I go on ahead?”

Garba-san left those words and disappeared.

“As expected of the ninja nya.” *(TL: I translated Garba’s nickname as hermit previously but I found out that his nickname can also refer to a term used to describe the ninja escape technique, so I changed it to ninja)*

Cathy commented from behind but I decided to prioritise talking with Grulga-san first.

The usual bear-like person ... with a presence that was reminiscent of the Asian black bears in my previous life, Grulga-san was there. *(TL: For those who forgot, Grulga-san is a wolfbeastman the size of a bear xD, Grulga & Garba are brothers, Grulga is the cooking bear who loves to cook with Object X and force Object X down unsuspecting newbie adventurers, Garba is the intelligence agent-like character who taught Luciel about dismantling monsters.)*

That Grulga-san was looking at me with a pleasant smile. It seems like he wanted to talk about the honey.

“I was truly surprised that you formed friendly relations with the Hacchi tribe. Honey is something that rarely appears in the market. Which was why I thought “Wouldn’t this be the answer to my search?” when I got my hands on honey, but it was a race that one would rarely meet under normal circumstances.” (Grulga)

“No~ I only met them by coincidence. Moreover, I thought of making Ienith an environment that is easy to live in ... but I’ve only met with failures.” (Luciel)

“Figures. It doesn’t matter if you become a dragon slayer, this country is currently rotten. Do you know why Garba-niisan left Ienith?” (Grulga)

“Nope, I only heard from Olga that he was called a prodigy in the past.” (Luciel)

“Even though he wasn’t a representative, he was tasked with doing anything and everything, and if he failed, the responsibility will be pushed onto him. That was a daily routine. That’s why, when I registered as an adventurer, we both left Ienith.” (Grulga)

“ ... To think even Garba-san will give up.” (Luciel)

So this country was like this since the past.

“Garba-niisan regretted that such a problem was shifted onto Luciel despite the passing of time.” (Grulga)

“ ... I’ve come to personally understand the dreadfulness of being used by people. I’ve been dreaming of going on a journey lately ...” (Luciel)

In my previous life when I was working for my firm, apart from jobs in a specialised field, I only had to compile the instructions for the purchase order date and construction details after taking a contract before handing it over to the engineering department.

However, now I had to take responsibility for everything, similar to a president of a small and medium-sized enterprise.

All the responsibility was merely weighing down my shoulders.

“This time, the incident where you broke through the activated labyrinth and killed the dragon to rid the country of corruption was not caused by the representatives but by the elders. Luciel, this time, you were placed on a pedestal.” (Grulga)

“Elders?” (Luciel)

There are elders ... I’ve never heard of anything regarding that at all.

Also, the person who spread the news about me killing the dragon should have been Jasuan-dono.

Seeing my confused expression, Grulga-san gave a simple explanation.

“The representatives of the 8 race meeting are quite young, right? The oldest is only about 40 years old. Why is that? Elders circle ... that’s because the patriarch of each of the races is the ones giving the instructions.” (Grulga)

“ ... But I’ve never heard anything about that before?” (Luciel)

“In each of the races, there are elders that choose the representatives. The representatives are usually unable to oppose the elders.” (Grulga)

“ ... ?” (Luciel)

“The 8 race meeting only involve 8 races right? Moreover, the patriarch of the dragonewts still possesses a blessing so they can’t defy the dragonewts as well.” (Grulga)
... Looks like I still have a lot of things I don’t know about Ienith.

“Even though it’s been proceeding smoothly these couple of months ...” (Luciel)

When I spilled that out, Grulga-san grasped my shoulder and touched on the recent incident.

“The elders were not happy with you renewing the slum district and giving preferential treatment to the half-breed beastmen and individuals without relatives. Which was why they began to work out a plan.” (Grulga)

“... Is that why an explosion occurred?” (Luciel)

“Yeah. I believe you will get the details later, but apparently, they decided to push the responsibility onto the Healer’s Guild because the building collapsed and you could not come out.” (Grulga)

“... Where did Garba-san pick up such confidential information? In the first place, were the 2 of you here since quite some time ago?” (Luciel)

“We reached this city of Ienith 3 days ago.” (Grulga)

“You guys did well to not be noticed.” (Luciel)

“Since Garba-niisan was there.” (Grulga)

“So when we reach the meeting point, do I have a role to play?” (Luciel)

“Nope. You gave the firmly bound Ienith a new blast of fresh air. Even though you faced obstruction, you still pressed on to better the environment in Ienith so there’s no harm in letting you enjoy slightly.” (Grulga)

As he said that, we arrived at the meeting place of the representatives and saw that the half-breed beastmen were jointly surrounded by the beastmen with the tiger beastmen leading the largest group.

I was about to run over upon seeing that so Grulga-san grabbed my shoulder.

“Relax. Nobody’s injured right? Because I’ve already put out a request for the Adventurer’s Guild people.”

Looking closely, I was able to confirm that there was a troop of equipped individuals forming a barricade between the half-breed beastmen and the beastmen to prevent the beastmen from attacking.

I could even spot the figures of Jasuan-dono and Jias-dono among the barricade.

“What does this mean?” (Luciel)

“You’ll know when we go closer.” (Grulga)

True to his word, upon approaching, I saw elders from each of the races as well as dozens of beastmen bound by rope with cloth covering their mouths.

“Sorry for the wait. Luciel is fine as well. Luciel, these are the culprits I mentioned previously.” (Grulga)

The moment Grulga-san said that while making sure that the surrounding could hear, it instantly became an uproar.

The elderly beastmen growled but the beastmen captured along with them were silent.

“Luciel-sama, thank you for saving Dollarstar-san. We’ve also been fully put to work by these 2 people who Luciel-sama admire.” (Kefin)

“Eh? Is anybody from the Kefin squad hurt?” (Luciel)

“No, there aren’t any.” (Kefin)

I was about to ask Grulga-san about this when this time, Jasuan-dono and Jias-dono called out to me.

“As expected. I believed that the Luciel who received the mighty blessing of the dragon would not die so easily.”

“I was fearful when I was told to instigate the dissemination that Luciel-sama had died but the elders who rarely appear in front of people and usually have the strongest level of wariness were all having a meeting together, there would never be such an opportunity again so it went well.” *(TL: They’ve been looking for a chance to nab all the elders at 1 go but they rarely met up together so this event gave them the best opportunity to act.)*

The 2 of them looked at me with relieved expressions and their gazes became sharp when they looked at the elderly below.

Already, I could no longer follow the situation.

Seeing that, Grulga-san began to explain to me little by little for me to understand.

“The truth is this time when we planned our strategy, we made use of the adventurers. We told them that this was the final chance to rebuild Ienith.”

“... What about the attacks on the school’s planned site, the former slum district, and the Healer’s Guild?”

“It resulted in some injuries but that was the best option.”

“... But, there was a half-breed beastman left to die in the slum district ... to me, when strategizing the important matters, the small matters ... don’t tell me the fire was also?”

I could roughly understand what the strategy was about.

However, I might be too naive, but I could not agree with a strategy that hurt people.

“There’s no way that would be part of the plan as well. We were quite shocked as well by that explosion. If that was the plan, I would have met with Luciel with Garba-niisan yesterday to talk about it before it happened.”

I was relieved after hearing that.

I would have held the 2 of them in contempt if they intentionally caused that explosion.

Then, an airy voice came over.

“Hey~ sorry for the wait. He used some strange trick and nearly escaped.” (Garba)

Garba-san came over carrying a racoon dog beastman bound by a rope over his shoulder.

That instant, the noisy atmosphere since before changed completely, silence commanded the place.

“... Erm, that person laying limply on your shoulder, is he perhaps Warabis-dono? Moreover, he’s dressed similarly to the person I helped earlier ... human?” (Luciel)

“Don’t you think it’s awful? He fainted the moment he saw my face even though it’s been such a long time since we met ... also, this guy is the perpetrator of the sabotage.” (Garba)

“Ha?” (Luciel)

How did he know that he was the perpetrator?

“Everyone from the half-breed beastmen race, you’re familiar with this face right?” (Garba)

Garba-san lowered Warabis-dono to the ground and pulled the rope binding him to orientate the man’s face toward us.

“... What ... Isn’t that Hattori?” (Kefin) *(TL: Hattori is the suspected reincarnated individual who taught Kefin and the others ninjutsu and supposedly died in the labyrinth.*

He has to ability to transform. Woah, the author planned/foreshadowed this arc out wayyy far out. He was mentioned in B5C73.)

Kefin cried out.

Hattori as in the Hattori that should have died in the labyrinth?

“Didn’t you say he died?” (Luciel)

The person who answered my question wasn’t Kefin but Garba-san.

“Apparently, he did a lot of things behind the scenes. Not here but at the Elimasia Empire though.” (Garba)

“That person is indebted to Ienith right?” (Luciel)

“Originally it seems to be so. Possessing an ability to transform into anything, he took advantage of that to gather various information. He gathered information about the status of the slums and passed it on to the elders.” (Garba)

“Kukuku. Betrayal is the conventional way of the ninja. What’s wrong with switching to those who highly value my ability.” (Hattori) *(TL: He used sessha to refer to himself and ended his sentence with degozaru. Lol think of Kenshin from Samurai X)*

Although it feels like he’s a foreigner that memorized wrong information about ninjas ... this is a reincarnated individual huh.

“Sorry for bursting your bubble but you can no longer use your ability. Since it is possible to seal all abilities of criminal slaves.” (Garba)

“That’s impossible ... eh? The rope unbinding technique doesn’t work.” (Hattori)

“Hattori, why did you betray us?” (Dollarstar)

The boss Dollarstar stood out from the half-breed beastmen and asked Hattori.

“I am thankful for you picking me up. However, I have a responsibility as a person chosen by God.” (Hattori)

“God? Are you saying you’re the messenger of the Chief God Kuraiya? What nonsense. You do not hold such a title.” (Dollarstar)

“I was saved by God when I lost my life. It inexcusable toward God for a chosen person like me to continue to stay at the very bottom.” (Hattori)

... He’s totally a reincarnated person.

The matter about Gods is unrelated to the current incident so I’ll put it aside first ... but the problem is, how do I judge the fact that he attempted murder.

“You should be aware that Dollarstar and the others were working there. If I did not rescue them, dozens of people would have died. What do you have to say about that?” (Luciel)

Hattori glared at me and replied.

“Everything is your fault. Since you captured the spies from the empire one after the other, I fell into financial difficulty and had to resort to taking up this job.” (Hattori)

Then, Garba who was holding on to Hattori looked at him with cold eyes and spoke.

“Yup, he’s completely a person who pushes the blame. I’ll torture you to have you spit out all the information so maybe I’ll have you faint for now. Luciel-kun, feed him Object X.” (Garba)

I took out the barrel and a cup from my magic bag and poured Object X out.

He’s a reincarnated individual and ninjas are enduring people so he might be able to drink it? I was concerned. When Garba-san ordered him, Hattori began drinking the Object X but just before he drank it, his eyes turned white and he foamed at his mouth. *(TL: Garba can order him most likely because Garba’s the owner and Hattori is his criminal slave)*

“As expected of Luciel ... to give the undiluted form.” (Grulga)

Grulga-san jabbed but I didn’t understand what he meant. *(TL: To Luciel, there’s no difference between the undiluted and diluted form of Object X hahah)*

Then, Garba-san’s speech began.

“It’s been a long time everybody, to all the people I don’t know, nice to meet you, I’m the son of the wolf beastman elder Gurauga laying there.

I’ve hated this Ienith from a long time ago.

I accompanied my father to Ienith’s representative meeting when I was 15.

What I saw at the representative meeting was but a gathering of nominal individuals from each of the races continuing to pull each other back. It wasn’t a place to decently discuss policies.

If any of the proposals fails, all the responsibility would be pushed to that particular race, if it succeeds then they solely emphasize on getting privileges, it was such a filthy gathering of individuals.

Instead of coming up with decent policies, they pushed all the blame onto the Philosopher and chased him out and the bad practice of bashing the Healer's Guild persisted from the time of our grandfathers.

The fields of spices we currently harvest were among all the seeds from the world brought by the Philosopher who coached us on how to harvest and grow them as well as pioneered the trade route to sell it to various countries.

It is absolutely not something decided by Ienith's representative meeting."

Garba-san truly understood the representative meeting.

"Garba-niisan proposed policies three times when he was young. 2 of them succeeded while 1 was struck down. Can you believe it? The one struck down was decided by the elders ... during the patriarch meeting, to be crushed." (Grulga)

"So the representative meeting and the patriarch meeting is different right?" (Luciel)

"Yeah. I mentioned it earlier but the respective patriarchs decide on their race's 2-year term representative." (Grulga)

"I didn't know that as well." (Luciel)

"That's expected." (Grulga)

Even during our conversation in soft voices, Garba-san's speech continued.

"And the healer Luciel-sama there, why was he nominated as Ienith's representative? That was to hide the fraud conducted by the representatives.

My investigation tells me that the tiger beastman Shaza conspired with the former Herbalist Guild vice-guildmaster Gurohara to sell the country's information to another country, pocketing a large sum of money and used that gold to bribe the elders to become the representative.

To conceal other instances of fraud, such as the case where the rabbit beastman Ririaldo-dono gave falsified reports to pocket the unaccounted salaries was also concealed by installing the S-rank healer and dragon slayer Luciel-sama as the representative.

And then, the patriarchs thought that Luciel-sama would not achieve anything before his term ended.

However, he is not an ordinary man.

Firstly, he cleaned up that dirty and smelly slums district.

As a result of him not discriminating against the half-breed beastmen, saying that they did not choose the place to be born in, they have not committed a crime even once.

Next, to secure Ienith's future by allowing the future generation to play an active role, he invested his personal wealth to construct a school for us.

I've found that the announcement made that the destruction of the healing district by the half-breed beastmen and that the healing district was constructed by Luciel-sama was all orchestrated in order to plunge his reputation.

Residents of Ienith, does this sit well with you? Is the beastmen a despicable race that returns good with evil? If not, then let us rebuild Ienith together."

I understood that Garba-san wanted to use this situation to flatten all the evil customs.

Even so, there were still people who did not know about the complaints I received when I proposed to make a school huh. *(TL: The representatives didn't want to pay for the construction and didn't want to lose the manpower to schooling if I remember correctly.)*

I was quite shocked to know that.

I spoke to Grulga-san softly.

"My back feels itchy hearing Garba-san attach -sama to my name though?"

"Well, that's how it has to be during a speech."

"I'm curious but wouldn't it be better if Garba-san just becomes the representative?"

"Maybe temporarily ..."

"Nevertheless, is Merotoni's Adventurer's Guild alright without the 2 of you?"

"Yeah. Broad told us to give you a helping hand for a little bit."

"I'm fully of gratitude toward Instructor Broad."

"Tell that to him yourself when you finish your term."

"I guess I should."

I've really got to thank Instructor Broad for sending the 2 of them.

"You're really well taken care of huh."

Lionel said.

"Yeah. When I was in Meratoni and even now, I've received a lot of help from him. I'll also immediately begin to use honorific speech with you after I release you from your slave contract though?" *(TL: Meaning he's also as thankful to Lionel as well.)*

"Kakaka. I believe it's fine the way it is now." (Lionel)

“Ha~ Well, if you change your mind, please let me know.” (Luciel)

Lionel merely smiled.

Garba-san continued his speech and strongly declared.

“Normally, I would not be able to judge them.

But, I will succeed the current wolf beastmen’s patriarch as the new patriarch, so I hereby announce my desire to invoke our enforcement right.”

The surroundings began to buzz with noise.

Patriarch successor? Enforcement right? I heard contents that I had completely no clue of so I asked Grulga-san frankly.

“Can the patriarch succession Garba-san mention be accomplished so easily? And what’s the enforcement right?”

Grulga-san waited slightly for an interval and began speaking.

“Firstly, patriarch succession only happens when the patriarch passes away or commits a crime that results in him becoming a slave, the affected race will discuss among themselves and elect a person before succession occurs.”

“ ... There’s nobody who can object to Garba-san’s claim so he can directly succeed the current patriarch huh ...” (Luciel)

I said and Grulga-san replied with a grin.

“Yeah. There’s nobody brave enough to challenge Garba-niisan face-to-face in Ienith. Moving on, the enforcement right ...”

According to Grulga-san’s words, the enforcement right carries with it risks.

It is a right that can only be invoked by patriarchs, if used, the elected representatives will not have the right to speak for the next 10 years. *(TL: They’ll have no say in meetings)*

Furthermore, Ienith is a democratic country so even if the enforcement right is invoked, without laying the groundwork with the other beastmen races, the probability that it will be voted for would be extremely low.

I became worried and continued to ask Grulga-san.

“Then, would it be voted for this time?”

Grulga-san once again grinned and ... gave a smile of satisfaction before he answered.

“This time, the patriarchs of all the races have been made into criminal slaves. Hence, the only patriarch now is Garba-niisan. Furthermore, if another patriarch is chosen then his enforcement right would be restored so there isn’t a single risk this time.”

After ending my questions to Grulga-san, I faced Garba-san and he had begun to announce the details of his enforcement right.

“Well then, it’s about time I make a move. I’ll be using *that* to prepare my cooking so please lend me *that*.”

Grulga-san said and walked up to where Garba-san was after receiving the barrel of Object X from me.

With the 2 of them standing side-by-side, I felt like the pressure from them doubled.

“The culprits for this incident, the elders of the 8 races, will be executed and their assets confiscated.

There’s a possibility that the economy would collapse if we dismiss all the current representatives. Hence, we will provide a preparation period for them to complete the procedures to find a successor to take over their work.

If they are found to be innocent during the interrogations after this, they will not be converted into slaves but all their assets will be confiscated.

Naturally, those guilty will be turned into slaves and punished with a life sentence of reclaiming new land.”

“Next, regarding the man who caused the explosion, I’ll have the former representative of the slums district decide if he will be executed or turned into a slave after listening to all that he has to say.

Regarding Warabis-dono, this time, we’ve found that he was manipulated by this man but he will also be turned into a slave.”

“Finally, many individuals joined the riot this time and in normal circumstances, they will all be converted into criminal slaves but Luciel-sama helped you all beg for mercy.

Thus, you all will be granted clemency if you finish the cooking made by Grulga as well as the Philosopher’s drink. You all have equal rights to choose.

Incidentally, there’s no place to run so be relieved. You all are under the same conditions.”

“I’m Grulga who will be handling the cooking. Let us celebrate the birth of a new Ienith with cooking that can even be presented to the heavens and the Philosopher’s drink that will leave a lingering taste that can’t be experienced from anything else.”

Grulga-san shouted and looked like he was enjoying himself.

While observing that, I thought, isn’t Garba-san’s punishment this time slightly severe? Or is this reasonable? I continued to ask myself that.

Am I trying to run away to protect my reputation ... to not want to be the nasty person who gives out severe punishments?

If only there are places like prisons and courts ... I noticed that I’m afraid of judging people.

While I was falling into confusion from the various emotions surfacing within me, I heard the sound of screams and cries from all around.

It wasn’t screams from drinking Object X but the angry voices of people aimed toward Garba-san for bringing the incident to a conclusion by executing the elders of all the races.

There were even angry and bitter words like parricide. However, Garba-san never reverses a decision that he had decided upon. (*TL: Parricide = The killing of a parent or other near relative*)

Garba-san and Grulga-san laid down judgement on their own father.

I had them add in a single thing.

“Would it be alright if the punishment date is decided at a later date?”

Garba-san gave a surprised expression and nodded.

“This time, what you all done is a crime that cannot be forgiven. Your souls will go to heaven and your bodies will return to earth. Please repent on your actions until the final day of your execution.” (Luciel)

I only added that.

“Well then, until the execution date, the elders and their cronies will be made into criminal slaves.”

Thus, while looking at the elders? patriarchs? that are pulled up to their feet by the adventurers, I prayed that Ienith will become slightly more normal after this.

And then, I, not knowing who judged who in this distorted country, in whose hands those rights were held, and how much the information was being manipulated by the upper echelons, felt terrified after I understood just how dangerous a position I was in.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

I wrote countless times and modified it countless times until smoke came out of my head.

I determined that it would be impossible for a 20-year-old to shoulder the responsibility of executing people.

Chapter 101

Completion of the school

After Garba-san finished announcing the content for his enforcement right, Garba-san and Grulga-san prompted me to return to the Healer's Guild but I chose to stay.

I felt that I had to see it with my own eyes.

“Well, I don't think it will be something you will enjoy when you see it though.”

Garba-san said before he took out the list of residents and instructed Grulga-san to have the people who participated in the riot drink Object X.

As expected, there wasn't enough time to cook so it led to the decision that they would be given the food at a later date.

Immediately beside Grulga-san who was administering Object X, Garba-san explained to me the enforcement right in detail.

“... Because of that, if the other races decide on new patriarchs, the enforcement right would be restored and the wolf beastmen would not fall into an oppressed environment.” (Garba) *(TL: I think he meant that once all the races have their patriarch back, it will be back to a voting system so it's unlikely that an enforcement right taken against them will pass through with majority. Think of it like the United Nations.)*

“But if many races collude, there's the possibility that they can strike down a single race right?” (Luciel)

“That's right. Usually, approval from the majority of the races is required but criminals do not have that right. That's why there was a need to gather all the patriarchs.” (Garba) *(TL: Meaning he gathered them up to drop them into slavery to prevent them from colluding and passing an enforcement right to Luciel and Garba/Grulga's disadvantage)*

“Were you thinking of using the uproar from the explosion to eliminate the darkness within Ienith in one fell swoop?”

“Yeah. I had ties with the 2 top brass in the Adventurer's Guild in the past and I only requested for their help yesterday. Though, originally it was supposed to be resolved in a smarter fashion about a month later.”

“Is that so ... so even Garba-san misreads the future.”

“Haha. It always happens.”

This time, because there was only a single patriarch, the proposal to forgive the individuals who participated in the riot by having them drink Object X was railroaded and they all lost consciousness after drinking.

37 dragonewts, 217 dog beastmen, 163 cat beastmen, 211 rabbit beastmen, and 349 tiger beastmen fell unconscious after finishing Object X.

This time, the bird beastmen were innocent, most of the fox beastmen were innocent except for a few, the wolf beastmen who joined the riot were given Object X while it was decided that the ones who attacked, including Olga-san who called Garba-san over, would be converted into criminal slaves.

Regarding the dog beastmen, cat beastmen, rabbit beastmen and tiger beastmen representatives and their subordinates, their status will be dropped to criminal slave status and it had been decided that they would be transported to the Labyrinth Nation Grandol. The Labyrinth Nation Grandol is the birthplace of labyrinths and has a number of them, so I think they would be used as fodder during labyrinth captures ...

It turns out that the dragonewt representative Jack-dono and his subordinates did not participate in the riot and they influenced the majority of the dragonewts to not participate in the riot. However, because they could not stop all the dragonewts, they were still converted into criminal slaves but their treatment was entrusted to Jasuan-dono.

I asked Olga-san.

“ ... Is it alright like this?”

Because I understood that this person wanted to improve Ienith in his own way.

“I hate it. But if we are not converted into slaves, it will set a bad example to the other races.”

He said with a smile but I guess he had been regretting since the time he could not stop Shaza.

“Even so, Olga-san has Shiela-chan right? What are you going to do about her?”

“ ... I requested for Garba and Grulga’s aid with regard to Shiela. ... It’s going to be lonely but this is also my atonement.”

He ended with that and gulped Object X down in one go and fainted.

I looked at the unconscious Olga-san and muttered.

“ ... It’s quite painful to see someone you know get punished.”

“Yeah. But naivety and kindness are different, those standing above have a corresponding responsibility. Luciel-kun, you have to slightly strengthen your heart more.”

Garba-san clapped my shoulder as he instructed the adventurers to transport the individuals converted into slaves to the slave dealer.

Thus, Ienith’s reform began.

Ienith-style reform was happening.

New representatives for the races were recruited regardless if they were recommended or recommended themselves and candidates with greater popularity were chosen.

The representatives pledged to not commit fraud and not issue instructions to commit fraud.

The takeover for the term of office had ended just in time so it was decided that the term would be 2 years as usual.

And then, Brian-san was chosen to assume the role of the leading representative for the next term.

There was fear that collusions may happen if the current system where only the 8 races made the decisions continued.

A double check system was established to prevent fraud. Also, the 4 races that were expelled were recalled and talks about creating a new city together in the near future happened, it’s a secret that I would rather be involved with that new city instead of this one.

It is exactly 8 months since I assumed the position of leading representative. The school construction plan that I thought of since the beginning of my domestic affairs plan was finally complete.

“Fu~!”

“Solidification ... complete.”

I had Dolan construct the monument to be placed at the entrance of the school building and the construction of the school was complete with the solidification performed by Paula.

“Dolan, Paula, thank you for your hard work! And everyone has worked hard until today. This school building is now complete!!”

I thrust my fist up and cheers welled up.

Not only Dolan and Paula, I understood that a lot of the residents who spent 10 days constructing the school building had a lot of expectations for it.

For a couple of days after that, there was a lot of aftermaths to be dealt with.

Among them was, as a result of exposure of the professional honey-making race, the Hacchi race, there were many who thought that it was a new industry in Ienith.

However, when the Hacchi tribe representative Haniru-dono gave a single statement, the turmoil converged all at once.

“We produce honey here because it is the residence of our saviour Luciel-sama. In accordance with that agreement, the Hacchi tribe report directly to Luciel-sama. If you tell us to give a profit to Ienith, we will leave.”

“... Kuma~!? That won't do kuma! If you hurt the Hacchi race, we will adamantly fight to the last man kuma.”

Brian-dono enlarged and cried out and the bird beastmen were their allies as well so that incident ended.

The fox beastmen were reluctant until the end but apparently they have begun to explore their own new business.

Thanks to that mess and the aftermath to deal with, the plans were slightly delayed and we finally celebrated the completion of the school's construction today.

From requests of parents who wish to have their children attend since the beginning of the construction of the school, the school was expected to welcome about 300 students.

However, since there were many who were unaware of the construction of the school and that it was a school that anybody could attend before Garba-san's speech, there was a possibility that the number would swell to a maximum of 1600 individuals just counting children alone.

Therefore, once they pass the curriculum of the basic course, they are allowed to freely choose the electives in the fields they want to learn.

Because knowledge differs among the adults, we decided to proceed with a 2-day course on the same topic, followed by a rest day and subsequently, another 2-day course with a different topic.

I thought of beginning by teaching literacy involving reading and writing characters as well as simple arithmetic.

Firstly, literacy will begin with writing their own names, their family names, names of things they usually know, before they advance until letter writing.

Regarding arithmetic, it would be sufficient if they are able to do the basic 4 fundamental rules of arithmetic. *(TL: Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)*

For the elective courses, I invited lecturers from the Herbalist Guild to talk about herbalism and I've received approval from Jordo-san for disciples with suitable Holy attribute magic from the Healer's Guild to teach.

I did think about having the other attributes as well, but because they would at the very least still possess some degree of attack magic and considering that the school would not be able to cope with it, I decided to refrain from teaching other attributes for the time being. *(TL: And so in the future, Ienith becomes the capital of healers and herbalist lol)*

I believe that the content to be taught will have to gradually be more diverse in the future but that would be up to Ienith.

Apart from studying, I thought of having recreation classes like martial arts training or jumping rope at the schoolyard but I'll leave that decision to the headmaster.

“The first task would be the open recruitment of students and the corresponding interviews. I look forward to it, Headmistress Naria.”

“Certainly, Luciel-sama.”

“You can stop addressing me with -sama already. Since I have already released Naria-san from your slave contract.”

I said with a smile.

“...You appointed such a major role to me despite my incompetence and moreover, Luciel-sama, you even dispelled my slave contract.”

“That’s because the person I can entrust the role of headmaster to must have an excellent personality, possess extensive knowledge and have the ability to impart that knowledge ... the only person who fulfils that is Naria.”

“I am not so excellent.”

“Don’t be humble. Jordo-san can already use 「Dispel」 now so when the slaves under the care of the Healer’s Guild reach an employable level, please let Jordo-san know and you can choose to either let them work at the Healer’s Guild or at the school.”

“Understood, sir.”

“Headmistress Naria, I believe it would be extremely difficult but I leave the teachers and students in your hands.”

“... Lionel-sama also requested for me to strengthen the foundation of this land as Luciel-sama’s land so I will do my very best.”

“Thank you.”

I appointed her as the headmistress in the guildmaster’s room.

When Lionel, Cathy and I were gathered, I called Naria over.

“Naria, I’ll release you from the slave contract.” (Luciel)

“Please wait a moment.” (Naria)

Going with the flow, I continued to speak.

“Apparently, in the Elimasia Empire, there was a renowned General Sen’oni who was peerless under the heavens and tore through the battlefields.

I heard his name was Lionel·Grust·Elfense.

One day, General Sen’oni was poisoned by his ally at a camp away from the battlefield. They exploited that brief opening to cut his legs.

Then, the cat with the nickname Shun'ei, the cat beastwoman Cathia appeared and protected General Sen'oni.

However, that action was reprimanded by the emperor and she was accused of running from the battlefield.

Apparently, that was the official reason, but the truth was that there were rumours abound that the Empire conducting human experimentations and there were demons entering and exiting the empire and the general who was looking into it was framed.

There was a woman named Lunaria who found out that Lionel and Cathia were dropped into slavery due to treason.

Lunaria had served the Elfense family for a very long time.

Lunaria planned to purchase Lionel and Cathia from the slave dealer but she was entrapped by them and by the time she woke up, they were on a carriage heading toward Ienith.” (Luciel)

Naria looked at Lionel and Cathy and silently nodded.

“Just like how Naria teach the slaves under the care of the Healer’s Guild, I would like Naria to teach the people who enter the new school that has been completed in Ienith as the headmistress.” (Luciel)

“Lunaria ... you have served the Elfense family well. From now on, become Naria and spend your time doing what you enjoy, nurturing personnel. If you do so, this land will become the foothold of Luciel-sama and I can travel in peace.” (Lionel)

“Leave the 2 of them to me nya. I will work to cover for Naria’s portion nya.” (Cathy)

“ ... So it’s already been decided ...” (Naria)

“Instead of His Imperial Majesty, the Prime Minister ... many of the other nobles had suspicious movements.

Perhaps, the demon race is really involved as well.

I also think that joke of a prophecy from the spirits was not completely fake.

When the time comes, this place will be important to allow people we trust to gather.” (Lionel)

... To be reminded of the Spirit’s prophecy that I had forgotten with much trouble ... and it’s the first time I heard about demons related to the empire? I swore in my heart to never set foot into the empire.

“Understood. Therefore ... please, please, return safe and well.” (Naria)

“ ... Understood.” (Lionel)

Lionel and Naria stared at each other.

Perhaps it was originally a forbidden love due to the difference in standing ... or rather it felt like it was building up even further ...

“Ah~ I’m sorry to interrupt your loving gaze but you will still be here until the construction of the school is complete and my term in Ienith ends though?” (Luciel)

The 2 of them gave a blank look and began laughing after that but I guess they were trying to hide their embarrassment.

The next day, in front of everyone from the Healer’s Guild, I released Naria’s slave contract.

Then, we agreed to a contract for her appointment as the new headmistress of Ienith’s school.

Thus, after my first time dispelling my slave contract, I declared.

“Thus, Naria is the first slave to ascend from slavery.

Due to her personality and her achievements so far, I will appoint her as the headmistress of the newly constructed school.

In the future, when I am dispelling slave contracts or when I am allocating work, if you wish to have your slave contract dispelled under your own will, please come to discuss with me directly.”

When I was climbing the stairs, Naria-san’s cheerful expression from the voices of the slaves congratulating her left an impression on me.

“It’s been a month since then ... it looks like Naria has fully prepared herself for the task.”

Entrusting Naria-san with the school, with this, the majority of the goals have been reached.

The daily production of the honey factory constructed together with the Hacchi tribe have not increased but it produced a sense of a premium item and sold for a high price and the place to sell it at has been decided as well.

The cotton planted in the fields are growing well and every day the fox beastmen were frantically developing clothes like underwear and towels using cotton.

The fox beastman Forens-san told me that those clothes were requested for by various locations.

Apparently, the fox beastman Forens-san was confused and went out of control when he saw the Hacchi tribe during the riot.

His rampage happened 5 minutes before we reached the location but it was decided that he would also be turned into a slave for that.

I felt that it was way too pitiful so I purchased him.

He loves money, loves doing business and is a serious person who will never conduct any illegal business so I entrusted the work of a head clerk to him.

He's now working hard for the sake of his wife and I told him that I would remove his slave contract if he produces a successor to the role but he said that he do not want to transfer such an incredible workplace to anyone.

I reluctantly set it such that his slave contract would be dispelled 10 years later and I gave him an order that if there was no successor by then, he will spend the next 10 years nurturing a successor but I was surprised when he prostrated to receive my order ...

Speaking of slaves, Olga-san was purchased by Garba-san and Warabis-dono was purchased by Grulga-san.

Garba-san was currently investigating various things together with Olga-san.

Apparently, he took charge of Shiela-chan and Olga-san shed tears of joy.

Grulga-san went ahead and returned to Meratoni first.

He left a strong impression on me when Grulga-san looked delighted as he told me that he was going to get along with Warabis-dono to research cooking with Object X.

Warabis-dono had fainted whenever I met them so they left without him leaving any impression on me.

I heard that the executions of the Ienith elders who were the culprit of the incident were gradually being conducted.

It seemed that the new representative of the respective races brought their bodies back to their tribes.

Garba-san refused me in advance saying that he does not want to show me that.

“Luciel-kun’s job is to heal people, so there is no need for you to see that. However ... if there is an afterlife, I hope that you pray for the happiness of the ones who lost their lives.”

Garba-san asked that of me.

Garba-san nominated Kefin to attend in my place so, without a doubt, the executions were being performed.

“All that’s left is, as long as the general hospital at the healing district is completed and the attraction of adventurers is entrusted to the new representatives, my work in Ienith would finally end ... I’ll stay sharp and persist until the end.”

As I recalled the various events that occurred in Ienith, I braced myself knowing that I would be thrown off my feet whenever I let my guard down.

Chapter 102

Respective paths

For a short period of time, the burnt down building in the healing district was left untouched.

After finding out who burnt down the building, the beastmen who were looking forward to the healing district started a large movement.

I heard of the movement the day after the construction of the school was resumed.

The beastmen set aside free time to begin cleaning up the building that had become charcoal.

They most likely have a lot to think about after this incident ... but it looks like they have begun to think about what would be good for the future of Ienith and took action. By the time the school was complete, the burnt healing district had been cleanly converted into a vacant lot.

This time, the country's treasure was boosted so a budget was properly organized during the Ienith representative meeting for the construction of the healing district and I received the order for the construction.

The construction of the healing district began immediately after the completion of the school building.

Dolan took the helm as the master builder and Baderu's squad members all became leaders and taught the half-breed beastmen, Dollarstar-san and the other beastmen, construction techniques.

I had them pledge to not conduct any misdeed or obstruct the process as a countermeasure against incidents similar to the previous sabotage, but the beastmen told me that they wish to construct the healing district building together and they did not look down on the half-breed beastmen.

We procured materials from the undeveloped forest, gathered magic stones from the labyrinth that had calmed down and made preparations for the opening of the school.

“We’ve managed to prepare a lot of parchments but I’m glad the development was in time.” (Luciel)

“Luciel-sama’s idea was awesome.” (Paula)

“It was truly an unexpected blind spot.” (Rician)

The collaborators Paula and Rician have completely become rivals and successfully developed the magic sheet and magic pen.

“It can be written on countless times and erased countless times. An excellent item that can also recall words and calculations.” (Luciel)

“With its word recall capability, minstrels can read and write their songs and if calculations can be recalled, people would not be fooled even if they are not merchants.”

“Well, it would be great if it comes to use in that manner.”

I felt that the 2 of them were really close.

Since they were always together.

Is this what they call birds of a feather flock together?

“This time, when the construction is complete, it will be the end of the work that I asked of the 2 of you. So, regarding your path from then on ...” (Luciel)

“I will let grandfather decide.” (Paula)

“I will follow where my lifelong rival goes. However ... just like Naria-san. I wish to be hired as Luciel-sama’s researcher ...” (Rician)

It seemed like Rician had always wanted to tell me that.

“Ask Dolan if you want to be hired as a researcher. I’ve entrusted the recruitment of researchers and engineers to Dolan. If Dolan refuses, I wish to hire Rician as a manager of the fields. I’ll still pay you a salary so I don’t mind if you continue to research on magic tools when you’re free.” (Luciel)

“... You won’t change your mind right?” (Rician)

I was firm until the end so this time, Rician withdrew as well.

“Before you shoulder a person’s life, you must first know yourself well. That’s why I entrust it to an appropriate person instead of myself. I trust and have confidence in Dolan and technique-wise he is more qualified than the clueless me.” (Luciel)

“Trust and have confidence in.” (Rician)

“At first, I was troubled with them going wild. However, I understand that lately, not only are they planning properly, I have confidence in their engineering and they have not gone wild. That’s why I could come to trust them.”

I laughed when I recalled how it was back then.

Paula averted her gaze but it seems like she recalled as well.

“Well then, I want you 2 to help Naria and Dolan. Once that is over, you are free to create what I have given approval for in the list of items you wish to create.”

“Bye.” (Paula)

“If you’ll excuse me.” (Rician)

The 2 of them looked happy when they heard me and ran off.

“I wonder who is the one that doesn’t change their mind ...” (Luciel)

I muttered with a wry smile.

That night, I called Dolan to the Healer’s Guild guildmaster room.

“Luciel-sama, you called?”

“Yeah. Please sit.”

I had Dolan sit on the drawn chair, confirmed with him the progress of the construction of the healing district and talked about the future.

“What’s the current progress of the building named as the general clinic in the healing district?”

“Healer’s Guild Jordo-dono and Herbalist Guild Smic-dono had a meeting and all that is left is to finish the interior.”

“I see. Once that is over, my term would end as well. What do you want to do?”

“To accompany Luciel-sama. I can only think of that.”

To be looked at with completely unclouded eyes, I became nervous instead.

“ ... Don’t you want to return to your hometown, the place where engineers gather?”

“Sheesh ... having my workshop explode and forced to become a debt slave ... that is not a place for me.”

“I see ... to be honest, I wanted you to be my person-in-charge for development there and support me ...”

“ ”

“Would you like to stop being a slave and work as the S-rank healer’s, my person-in-charge of technological development?”

“ ... I’m grateful.”

“Well then, putting aside if I’ll bring you to Meratoni, would you like to be employed by me?”

“By all means.”

“Thank you. I can dispel Dolan and Paula’s slave contract anytime so please let me know anytime.”

“If that’s the case, I hope to have it done after we return to that city.”

“Okay. I’ll leave everything to you as before.”

“Yes!”

Dolan left the room after his task was over.

“Even though it would have been fine if he told me more since it’s his hometown and there’re the graves of his family there.”

Dolan’s son and his son’s wife went mining in the mine but never came back.

For some reason, there was an explosion in the mine and the 2 of them were involved in it.

Within the chaotic surroundings, Dolan could not leave Paula’s side.

Even though the search parties went on for many days, the 2 of them never came back.

I found out about that from the exchanges I had through mail with Grand-san. Also, after finding out that Dolan is with me, Grand-san wanted to construct a new workshop at the place where Dolan’s workshop once stood. *(TL: Grand is the weaponsmith dwarf working for the Saint Schull Church Luciel met in Ch42)*

During his own expedition, Grand-san found out that something happened to Dolan and he tried various methods to search for them but he could not find them.

“All that’s left is Kefin and the others huh.”

I returned to my room arms crossed as I was troubled and practiced magic circle chants before I went to bed.

Incidentally, I had the elf Milfeene work in the factory and I had already dispelled her slave contract.

Milfeene looked uneasy after Naria-san was appointed as headmistress so I called her to the guildmaster room and she told me about the instructions from the water spirit.

I listened to the talk regarding the spirit priestess but I wondered why she suddenly revealed it and asked her, apparently she could no longer resist the pricks of her conscience.

“Even though that happened, nothing changed and I continued receiving contact from the spirit. As expected, it is impossible to continue keeping silent about it.” (Milfeene)

I could not believe her words but she properly does her work, she could aid in the growth of the plants using spirit magic and her compatibility with the Hacchi tribe was good so I had her stay.

She was moved to tears.

“Thank you. Even though Spirit-sama told me to find the spirit priestess, I don’t have such special abilities ...”

Evidently, she was bad with fighting and she was completely taken to this environment where she could occasionally receive delicious honey.

Next, the half-elf Crecia apparently admires Naria-san and she requested to become a teacher in the school.

Naria also vouched for Crecia so when I hired her as the school’s teacher, I dispelled her slave contract and once again signed another contract, this time, an employment contract with her as a teacher.

The truth was, if only Crecia wasn’t flustered in battle, she would do well as a combatant with her forte in archery and dual sword technique as she harbors a strong admiration for Sir Rainstar.

Her ability is ... far above mine so she’s very strong.

Even though my status was higher, I was miserably steamrolled countless times so I decided to stop looking at status.

There, Crecia taught me the harshness of reality and cleared my misunderstanding thinking that I had become stronger because my level went up.

After that day I experienced actual combat, I understood the teachings Instructor Broad drilled into my head and it’s a secret that the amount I trained increased after that.

I think that the 2 of them wished to grasp newfound happiness in Ienith from then on.

The next day, when I interviewed Kefin and the others, apart from Kefin, they declared that they wanted to remain in Ienith.

Furthermore, including Kefin, they all wanted to remain as slaves.

“I wish to follow Luciel-sama but the others want to remain in Ienith.

Hereafter, it is still not yet known if this country will really become better.

Which is why they wish to protect this underground factory and the school that Luciel-sama laid down until that day arrives.

Moreover, if criminal slaves such as ourselves are released so easily, there would definitely be people who will develop an antipathy towards Luciel-sama.

Therefore, we all thought that it will be better if our slave contracts are dispelled after we have worked for another 5 years or 10 years.” (Kefin)

Seeing Kefin and the others put so much thought into it compared to myself, I was reminded of how naive I am and I accepted their proposal.

However, they requested that I remain as their owner.

The reason was that as my slaves, they would not be hassled by the adventurers.

At a later date, I found out from Jasuan-dono that I was at the top of the list of people to definitely not be at odds with and as my slaves are my property, it was true that they would be protected so I remained as their owner.

The general clinic in the healing district formed from the combination of the Healer’s Guild and Herbalist Guild was completed.

The first floor was equipped with the general reception and treatment rooms.

The second floor was made such that one can peruse books on healing and herbalism.

The third floor became a cafeteria and it was designed such that the public could not enter from here onwards.

The fourth floor was the residential space for men and the fifth floor was the residential space for women.

Also, the basement was designed to be a compounding room for herbs and they came up with a solution to prevent smoke from leaking out of the basement like what happened the previous time.

I was forced to assume the position of the first generation chairman of the clinic for only a day and there was when I first found out that Jordo-san is a person who does not like to stand out.

I felt as if the next few months passed in the blink of an eye.

I was currently giving a speech for the opening of the school.

“Hi, I am the S-rank healer Luciel.

I am pleased that Ienith’s school could open on such a great day blessed with fine weather.

I’m deeply thankful for you all founders who dedicated much effort toward the completion of the school.

And for all students of the maiden class, congratulations.

The trigger that sparked the thought of establishing this school was the conflict between races as well as the discrimination toward the half-breed beastmen.

People are not born to equal standings.

However, I believe that everyone has an equal right to learn.

What I want to convey to the 8 races, is my wish that through learning here, you will broaden your own possibilities and greater your chance to become an inventor, a herbalist, a merchant or anything you want to be.

And, through studying here, I hope that you all will cultivate your thinking and propel Ienith forward in the future.

For you all who took the initiative to clean up the burnt down healing district, you all who took action to make Ienith a better place, I believe my hope will definitely come true.

A year has passed since I first came to Ienith, I apologize for being blunt but I don’t have good memories of Ienith.

The targetting of my life since the first day I arrive, interference at our healer demonstration, conquering of the labyrinth.

The variety of interference I received after my appointment as representative, the numerous cases of fraud that continued to appear the more I tried to solve them.

A perfect example would be the Ienith massive riot.

If the completion of this school brings all of you even a slight bit of happiness, it will be my happiest memory of Ienith.

As I pray for that to come true, I will end my speech.

Congratulations to everyone for enrolling into the school.”

That night after I finished my speech at the ceremony, I was scolded so fiercely by Naria-san that my feet shook but I won't talk about that.

The morning the next day, before sunrise, with me riding Fornoir, Lionel riding another horse beside me and finally Kefin acting as coachman for the carriage, we departed from Ienith.

Within the carriage was Cathy, Dolan, Paula and Rician and we first headed for Dolan and Paula's hometown.

Author's Note:

Thank you for reading.

Thus, the 6th volume is finally complete.

